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TOP JOBS SECTION 3

Blair admits smacking his children - and feeling remorse

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

TONY BLAIR, who has always claimed to be "tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime", has been applying the same principles at home.

The admission to *Parent Magazine* has delighted right-wing Tories who are thrilled that the Labour leader has joined a select band of parliamentary smackers, including Virginia Bottomley and Baroness Thatcher.

But his own politically correct backbenchers are more censorious and see it as a mild blot on his moral reputation.

Mr Blair, who has three children, Euan, 12, Nicholas, ten, and Kathryn, eight, said: "When they were little I smacked them occasionally if they were really naughty or did something nasty to another child."

He said he felt some remorse. "I always regretted it because there are lots of ways of disciplining a child and I don't believe that belting them is the best one." But he added: "I was caned as a schoolboy and it probably did me no harm."

Mr Blair justified smacking by saying: "There is a clear dividing line between administering discipline on the one hand and violence on the other, which most parents understand perfectly well. The important point is to discipline your children, because they must realise that there are some things they can't do."

The Labour leader said that being a father was far harder work than being a politician. Asked if he ever got cross, he said: "When my children don't do what they are told, I get cross. They do all the things that I used to be absolutely dreadful about as a child, like answering back or not tidying their rooms... I think it is important to enforce a code of conduct."

Britain defies Brussels over Euro veto

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHARLES BREMNER AND ROGER BOYES

BRITAIN'S battle with the European Union over beef turned into a defiant stand-off last night after Brussels refused to make any further moves towards lifting the general export ban until John Major ends his policy of non-cooperation.

Article 5 of the Treaty of Rome says:

"Member states shall take all appropriate measures, whether general or particular, to ensure fulfilment of the obligations arising out of this Treaty or resulting from action taken by the institutions of the Community."

"They shall facilitate the achievement of the Community's tasks. They shall abstain from any measure which could jeopardise the attainment of the objectives of this Treaty."

The European Commission agreed, as expected, to end the embargo on beef by-products, but Jacques Santer launched a fierce attack on Britain's "absurd" stance, which he claimed was breaking the EU's founding treaty.

He spoke after a majority of the 20 commissioners had reluctantly followed their legal obligations and ended the smaller ban while demanding that Mr Santer take tougher action against Britain. Some wanted the Government to be taken to court.

Downing Street, however, insisted that there would be no climbdown. Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, said: "The policy has been made clear by the Prime Minister and that policy remains in place until the circumstances which relate to it - and which he set out so clearly in the House of Commons - has been constructively addressed."

Britain also seemed ready to threaten legal action against Germany, which said it would not lift even the ban on tallow, gelatine and bull semen. Malcolm Rifkind, in Bonn on a cross-European "charm offensive" that appeared rapidly to be turning sour, said that any unilateral ban would violate European law.

Germany has said that it will not ease its embargo on British beef products until the federal decree comes up for review in September - and even if it did, the 16 federal states would almost certainly impose their own curbs.

The German stance put it, too, on a collision course with the Commission. But it was the stalemate on the main ban that was causing most alarm last night. Some Conservative MEPs called for a "gradual de-escalation" of the non-cooperation policy to help agreement on a staged removal of the ban, and business leaders warned the Prime Minister

that the crisis could disrupt other trade. Niall Fitzgerald, the chairman of the CBI's Europe committee, said that careless Euro-sceptic talk could cost jobs.

Mr Rifkind and Douglas Hogg, the agriculture minister, were meanwhile touring Europe trying to get agreement on a "framework" for ending the whole ban, but Mr Santer seemed to rule out any chance of that, and the Florence summit later this month is now at serious risk of chaos.

Mr Santer claimed yesterday that Britain's blocking tactics were against the "spirit and letter" of the Treaty of Rome, whose Article 5 requires member states to facilitate the smooth running of the Union.

Britain was "distancing itself from the heart of Europe", he said, and now that Brussels had met its obligations over the by-products, the Commission expected "an immediate de-escalation from its position of conflict."

In the absence of such immediate de-escalation, further work concerning a general framework of cooperation for achieving... a later lifting of the embargo would risk being seriously affected.



Roy Benson training on the beach at Cliftonville near Margate in Kent yesterday

London Marathon veterans disqualified

BY JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

TWO veteran runners were yesterday disqualified from this year's London Marathon for cheating because officials can find no evidence they ran the whole course.

Roy Benson, who won the over-60 men's section, with a time of 2 hours 55 minutes 04 seconds, and Guillian Catlin, who was fourth in the women's over-60 class in 3 hours 34 minutes 03 seconds, were told that their performances were being excluded from the official results.

Mr Benson, 66, from Margate, Kent, had received a boxed category winner's medal. Miss Catlin, 62, from Liskeard, Cornwall, received the medal for those who complete the race.

A six-week inquiry has hinged on a film taken on the Isle of Dogs, which is the checkpoint that the organisers use to verify that all runners complete the 26 miles, 385 yards. The two athletes have declined to identify themselves in the film, which was sent to their homes.

Both say they do not possess video equipment. The organisers had previously spent hours scrutinising the film in a fruitless attempt to spot the two competitors.

Alan Storey, the general manager of the race, said: "We have been given no alternative. A lot of people train



Mr Benson and Miss Catlin during the race

tremendously hard. We owe it to them to remove anyone from the results, when it is obvious that their performances lack credibility."

The event loops round east London and competitors who drop out of the race can use public transport free, provided they show their race numbers.

Both runners, who do not know each other, yesterday insisted that they had run the whole course. Their last times in recent London marathons had originally been questioned by statisticians of veteran athletics, because neither had achieved performances of

Continued on page 2, col 5

Ices for penguins as sun shines at last

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

BRITAIN enjoyed the warmest day of the year yesterday as most of the country enjoyed the high 70s, with some favoured south coast resorts basking in the low 80s. Today is likely to be even hotter.

The warm spell, due to high pressure moving north from Italy and the Mediterranean, comes after one of the coldest springs on record - so chilly that birds have failed to breed and flowers have been slow to blossom.

Yesterday the highest temperature - 82F (27.7C) - was recorded at Gravesend, Kent and the London Weather Centre said today will be generally warmer. A few showers and cooler weather are expected tomorrow evening and on Saturday, "but it

will be pleasantly warm with a fair amount of sunshine."

London's noon temperature yesterday of 75F (24C) matched many of the Mediterranean hotspots and beat the Canaries 73F (23C), Cagliari, Sardinia 72F (22C) and Madeira 70F (21C). A week ago Bournemouth, in Dorset, was vying with Norway and Denmark for the chilliest temperatures. Yesterday at 82F it was hotter than Casablanca. One tourist office spokesman said: "This is much more like it. All the deck chairs are out and it is just like old times."

At Drusillas Zoo at Alfrinton, near Eastbourne, keepers fed penguins with fish-flavoured ice lollies.

Forecast, page 24

IRA arms threat to peace talks

The future of the Northern Ireland peace process was in doubt last night after the IRA said that no weapons would be handed over before an overall political settlement.

The statement came as John Major and the Irish Prime Minister John Bruton attempted to end the deadlock on moves towards disarmament proposals. Page 2

Duchess signs \$1.3m book deal

The Duchess of York signed a \$1.3 million (£838,000) deal in New York last night for the publication of her autobiography, despite agreeing to a confidentiality clause in her recent divorce.

Under the deal with Simon & Schuster, the US publisher of her *Budgie* series, the book will be published in Britain and America later this year.

Scientists reduce football match to total chaos

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

AS IF Terry Venables, the England coach, did not have enough to worry about in the run-up to Euro 96, sports scientists from Wales are now urging him to adopt more chaotic tactics.

According to their research, the mathematics of chaos theory can be applied to football. In essence, the tactic involves disrupting the well-established patterns of play by injecting the unexpected, something that good coaches may have already worked out for themselves. Keith

Lyons and Mike Hughes of the University of Wales Institute in Cardiff have collected a mass of data from football matches, modelling patterns of play on a computer by noting every action taken by the players.

"Successful teams exhibit patterns of play," Dr Hughes, an Everton fan, told *New Scientist*. "Their actions show invariance which provides football with a pre-ordained course. Yet amid the patterns there are perhaps four or five occasions when the game deviates from this rigid structure."

The secret, he says, is exploiting these chaotic moments, or perturbations. And by studying the patterns of an opposing team's play, it should be possible to devise the perturbations most likely to disrupt it.

His data goes back for more than ten years, and includes details of every action taken by the players. From this a team's pattern of play can be modelled.

"These are the patterns these players feel comfortable with and with which they create dangerous attacks," says Dr Hughes. "We can use this information to enable opponents to upset these patterns."

Dr Hughes admits that it hardly

needs chaos theory to identify that moments of genius win matches. But he says that the advantage of notational analysis is that it identifies what is obvious or invariant in a match.

"When you can see the orderliness, it is easier to identify the ripples of player-induced chaos that upset those patterns," he says.

Dr Hughes is more optimistic than some about England's prospects. "The most critical time for England will be when they play Scotland, because that game's going to be absolute chaos."

Czech mates, page 48

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Bosom of liberty blanches at Lady Astor's bust

POINTS of order in the Commons yesterday featured the opening skirmishes in the Var of Nancy Astor's Bust. At least, Madam Speaker thought it was her bust. Tony Aarlow (C, Northampton North) said it was a plaque. David Harris (C, St Ives) said it was a bust. And it was Mr Harris who said the subject. He had asked through the "No" division lobby to vote on the previous evening, he told the speaker. There he had seen a bust of Nancy Astor, the first woman MP to take her seat in the House of Commons. It was inappropriate.

"We do not want our lobbies turned into pale imitations of the aisles at Westminster Abbey, with all sorts of memorials sprouting all over the place."

There were loud cheers from a number of Tory males. Normally a mild man, Harris seemed to have struck a chord. Few, if any, of his colleagues will remember Nancy Astor, but they all know Teresa Gorman (C, Billerica). Edwina Currie (C, Derbyshire South) and Dame Elaine Keble-Bowman (C, Lancaster) and legend has it that Lady Astor was a fearsome combination of all three — and then some. "I married



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

beneath me. All women do," she once said.

One suspected yesterday that the objection was not just to busts in general, but to Lady Astor's in particular — though none dared breathe such a thought in Miss Boothroyd's presence.

Madam Speaker understood, she said, that "the bust was commissioned by the family". The House's Arts Committee had placed it in the "No" lobby. She promised

to look into the matter. Parliamentary sketchwriters now await a counterblast from Lady Astor's supporters.

Indeed, for Nancy Astor's ghost, Wednesday was a troubled day. Minutes earlier, miner's son and unrepentant Scottish male Jimmy Hood (Lab, Clydesdale) had seized the opportunity offered by a question on inward investment in Scotland to raise the subject of prostitution. Was it not a disgrace, he

rumbled, that the Scottish Nationalist Party were proposing to "commercialise prostitution"? I think Mr Hood meant "legalise".

The Scottish Nationalists, he declared, would turn Scotland "into the greatest little whorehouse in Europe". There was a shocked silence, broken by the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, burling something about how this proved that the Nationalists were very left-wing.

It is disillusioning for those of us who have tried to cleave to the principles of classical economic liberalism to see, one by one, our idols fall. First Michael Portillo sells out to

jingoism; then John Redwood starts blethering about the Royal Yacht Britannia; Teresa Gorman degenerates into a populist; and now Michael Forsyth calls the deregulation of the sex market "left-wing".

As a one-time libertarian and prophet of the free market, Mr Forsyth should be ashamed. Lacking the courage to face the question, he might at least have had the wit to turn it aside with the remark that the Scots Nats seemed to have overtaken even the Tories in their enthusiasm for market forces.

Margaret Ewing (SNP, Moray) rose. "Woah!" chorused the schoolboy ten-

dency on both sides. "Reverting to the issue of inward investment..." began Mrs Ewing, with dignity. "Aaah," sighed the disappointed boys.

You could imagine Nancy Astor's bust, quivering with rage in the "No" lobby.

□ The bronze plaque of Lady Astor commissioned by her son David, a former editor of the *Observer*, was made by Michael Rizzello, a London sculptor. Mr Astor commissioned the work after a dinner to mark the 70th anniversary of his mother's election. "Someone said that there was nothing to mark the fact that she was the first woman in the house," he said.

Computer may have misguided Ariane

A computer fault may have been responsible for the failure of the Ariane 5 rocket. Officials with the European and French space agencies said preliminary findings indicated that wrong information caused booster nozzles to swivel and steer the rocket off course as it approached supersonic speed over French Guiana. Ground controllers then ordered its destruction.

The possibility of a computer fault — either because of a flaw or because false information was sent from another electrical system such as the guidance or altitude units — was hailed as good news by officials with the agency and Arianespace, the commercial company due to take over running of Ariane 5. A design fault in the rocket's propulsion system would be far harder to rectify.

Mass conversion

The biggest mass conversion to date by a Church of England congregation has been recorded by a Roman Catholic church in east London, reports the *Catholic Herald*. Nearly 120 Anglicans from St Matthew's, Bethnal Green, including their curate, the Rev Stephen Willis, have been received into the Catholic church.

Fish quota call

Britain will not cut its fishing fleet until Brussels tackles quota-hopping by foreign fishermen, Tony Blair, the Fisheries Minister, told MPs last night. He said the European Commission's call for cuts of 40 per cent was unacceptable; 20 per cent of the offshore fleet was wholly or partly owned by foreign interests whose catches were part of UK quotas.

Exhibition saved

British Airways has come to the rescue of the Millennium Exhibition, planned for Greenwich. After an emergency meeting called by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, to raise private-sector finance for the scheme, Sir Colin Marshall, BA's chairman, said the company would support the event "significantly".

Ecstasy danger

Ecstasy is now the main drug causing emergency admissions for psychiatric treatment, according to a study published today. More than two-thirds of 390 drug-related admissions to a psychiatric intensive care unit were for Ecstasy and all these involved people under 25 years old, says a report in the *Nursing Standard*.

Coe promoted

Sebastian Coe, MP, a former Olympic athletics champion, is to enter the Government as a junior whip. He replaces Gary Streeter, who earlier this week became junior minister at the Lord Chancellor's Department when Jonathan Evans went to the Welsh Office to replace Rod Richards, who resigned over allegations that he was having an affair.

Police ambushed

Police were pelted with petrol bombs and stones after being lured into an ambush by masked men who called 999 and claimed that rioters were looting shops. Detectives in Leeds suspect the attack could have been an attempt at retaliation by local criminals in response to a campaign against crime in the Woodhouse district of the city.

Shrimp apes bee

The first marine species to live in a colony like bees has been found in the crevices of a tropical sponge. The snapping shrimp lives in groups of up to 300 off Belize. The colony is dominated by a single queen who is responsible for all reproduction. The larger members of the colony do not breed but act as soldiers, defending the group.

IRA weapons statement threatens peace process

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
AND NICHOLAS WATT

THE future of the Northern Ireland peace process was in doubt last night after the IRA said that no weapons would be handed over ahead of an overall political settlement.

The IRA statement, which stated that there would be no ceasefire before Monday's peace talks, coincided with fresh dispute over the all-party talks. Ministers were urged to abandon plans to announce details of an agreement between London and Dublin when discussions ended yesterday morning.

John Major and John Hume, the Irish Prime Minister, were due to hold urgent discussions to try to resolve the dispute. They are hoping

President Robinson, visiting Britain, laid a wreath in memory of Ireland's war dead at Westminster Cathedral. She was greeted by Cardinal Basil Hume and later had lunch with John Major. She will next week visit Washington at the invitation of President Clinton amid speculation that she may be a candidate to become UN Secretary-General.

for agreement today but officials admit there is no guarantee that differences can be ironed out.

After 16 hours of intensive talks between the two governments on Tuesday, ministers thought they had resolved problems over the destruction of terrorist weapons and who should chair the various parts of the talks. Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and Dick Spring, the Irish Deputy Prime Minister, emerged

from talks early yesterday morning to predict a joint statement later in the day.

However hopes of a breakthrough collapsed after a furious reaction from Ulster Unionists and British ministers' refusal to bow to Dublin demands on the chairmanship of a crucial part of the talks.

London made clear yesterday that it would not give ground to demands to allow Senator George Mitchell, President Clinton's envoy, to chair the so-called "strand

two" talks. Mr Bruton flew to London for a brief meeting with David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader. Mr Trimble has voiced deep reservations over the role of Senator Mitchell, who will oversee talks on decommissioning weapons.

After Mr Trimble had made clear his objections, the two governments acknowledged there was no prospect of a breakthrough yesterday.

The IRA statement came hours after Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, condemned Britain for excluding his party from the talks and for waiting until the last minute to hold discussions with the Irish Government about the agenda.

Leading article, page 21



Smacking family: Mr Blair with children Kathryn, 8, Nicholas, 10, and Euan, 12.

Blair admits smacking

Continued from page 1

whose recent public disagreements have forced Mr Blair to speak firmly to them, were distinctly nervous — possibly worried that their youthful *pater familias* may now consider using an even firmer line in future.

But one senior Labour backbencher said: "This is one right-wing view too far. The argument against hitting infants was won years ago. Everyone knows it breeds aggressive children."

Mr Blair's office was immediately inundated by calls from irate children's organisations.

Peter Newell, the co-ordinator of Epoch (End Physical Violence For Children), which aims to outlaw smacking said: "A hundred years ago political leaders got away with hitting their wives. Today they would be condemned. In a hundred years' time we will be horrified that a Labour leader admitted smacking a child."

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children said: "The NSPCC understands the stresses parents and carers face, but believes that smacking is not an effective or appropriate way of disciplining children."

But surveys show that Mr Blair is not in a minority. About 90 per cent of parents in Britain say they have hit their children and his admission met much sympathy from some celebrity parents interviewed by *The Times*.

Race ban

Continued from page 1

a comparable standard in shorter events. So the organisers of this year's Flora London Marathon gave each one of the 250 champion chips distributed to special competitors. These minute electronic gadgets clip onto the laces of running shoes and record split times in a central computer.

However, after the event on April 21, Mr Benson told the organisers that he had arrived eight minutes late for the start and, in his haste, had inadvertently left the chip in his car. Miss Catlin said that she did not wear the gadget because she did not want to be responsible for losing it and paying £20 to replace it.

Mr Benson runs regularly barefoot in the sea off the Kent coast. He said that, because of "the difficulties" that the organisers had faced, he did not object if any award were transferred to another runner.

He added: "To me it has been a great privilege to take part in the London Marathon and that is reward in itself. I would like to run in the event next year and show everyone, once again, that I am capable of this time."

Miss Catlin said she had raised about £30,000 for charity in her 19-race marathon career. This year, she was collecting for the British Heart Foundation. She said: "I am upset that I have been excluded. I ran all the way."

Minister silent on Japanese bid

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Defence Minister James Arbutnot angered MPs yesterday when he refused to confirm whether a Japanese consortium was bidding to buy the Armed Forces' 60,000 married quarters for £1.6 billion.

Members of the Commons Defence Select Committee had already expressed strong disapproval of the sell-off scheme, and Mr Arbutnot's disclosure that after 25 years the purchaser would be able to redevelop certain sites for private sale.

When Frank Cook, Labour MP for Stockton North, asked whether it was true that the four foreign shortlisted were all bidders — two from America, one Dutch and one Japanese, Mr Arbutnot said it was a commercially confidential matter.

It was revealed in *The Times* last month that the Japanese bank Nomura International is on the shortlist.

Winston Churchill, Tory MP for Devon, described Mr Arbutnot's response as an outrage. He said hiding such information would not be allowed in the United States. He told Michael Colvin, the committee chairman: "We

need to assert our position as a committee to obtain that information. It is an outrage that it should even be suggested that it be denied to this committee."

Mr Arbutnot agreed to give the information to the MPs privately.

Earlier Bruce George, Labour MP for Walsall South, told Mr Arbutnot he believed the proposal to sell the homes to a private consortium was a "nonsense". "I know it would mean a great deal of embarrassment if this could be reversed but frankly, as a member of this committee since 1979, and having witnessed many inanities by the MoD, this has got to be the greatest Pythonesque inanity ever."

Mr Arbutnot said that although the future buyer would be able to redevelop certain sites after 25 years of leasehold ownership, it would have to provide alternative housing close by.

He announced, however, a new condition. The MoD would be able to issue a "ministerial certificate" to stop a site being redeveloped after 25 years if it would have an adverse effect on military operational effectiveness.

Circulation decision angers Times

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

NEWS INTERNATIONAL, owner of *The Times*, complained to the Audit Bureau of Circulations yesterday over its decision to exclude from circulation figures Monday's edition of the paper, which is being sold at 10p from this week.

Les Hinton, executive chairman of News International, wrote to the bureau's chief executive, John Beadell, after it ruled that *The Times*' decision to let newsagents keep the entire 10p breach industry rules.

The paper, which sells at 30p on

weekdays and 40p on Saturday, launched the Monday offer to mark Britain's "summer of sport".

Mr Hinton's letter said: "I do not understand how the ABC can unilaterally decide to disallow copies of Monday's issue of *The Times* that were genuinely sold through the news trade, when thousands of papers which are given away through so-called 'bulk sales' are consistently included in publishers' ABC returns."

Richard Foon, deputy chief executive of the bureau, which is controlled by newspaper publishers, advertisers and agencies, said he was applying rules laid

down by the industry. "The rules state that for copies to be included as trade sales they must give a positive contribution to the publisher. This is not the case if *The Times* is selling at 10p."

In the case of *The Daily Telegraph*, which has offered copies of the 70p Sunday *Telegraph* in return for a 10p voucher, the publisher was deemed to have gained a contribution because the customer had to buy a full-priced copy of *The Daily Telegraph* to obtain the voucher. Mr Foon added that different rules governed bulk sales, where newspapers are distributed free to readers by third parties.

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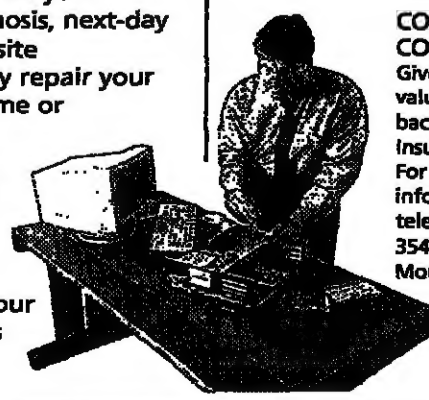
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Thomas to retire early Jewish PC wins case over racial prejudice

BY RICHARD FORD

A JEWISH police officer who suffered two years of anti-Semitic taunts won thousands of pounds in compensation yesterday from the Metropolitan Police.

PC Paul Thomas was awarded the money after an industrial tribunal found that he was discriminated against on racial grounds.

Mr Thomas, 40, agreed the terms and amount of compensation during a hearing at an industrial tribunal in central London. As part of the deal, he is forbidden from making any further comment on the matter or revealing details of the settlement. It is understood, however, that the payment is a five-figure sum.

Mr Thomas's case had been funded initially by the Commission for Racial Equality and then the Police Federation, which told Mr Thomas on Tuesday that it would not carry on with funding his case.

Mr Thomas plans to retire from the Metropolitan Police next month after being on sick leave for almost two years.

The settlement followed a hearing last year in which Mr Thomas said that he contracted bulimia nervosa, the thinner's ailment, after being abused and mocked for following Jewish dietary rules while serving at Chiswick police station in west London.

The tribunal stated in its judgment: "We accept officers more senior than Mr Thomas are aware he was called Hymie and Moses and are surprised they were prepared to wait to be asked to do something about it."

Holiday girl, 5, swept out to sea on beach stroll

BY JOANNA BALE

A GIRL aged five was feared drowned yesterday after being swept away by a high tide while on holiday in Cornwall. Rebecca Ramsey was on an evening stroll at Sandymouth Bay, near Bude, with her mother's boyfriend, John Seaman, 52, and his son Matthew, 25, when they were cut off by the tide and carried into the sea.

The men managed to scramble onto rocks and were rescued by coastguards, but the girl disappeared. Two holidaymakers raised the alarm after seeing the men in the sea on Tuesday.

The girl's mother, Susan Ramsey, 44, watched from Stowe cliffs, overlooking the beach, as coastguards and an RAF helicopter searched rough seas for two hours. The search resumed at dawn yesterday, but was called off in the afternoon. Routine patrols of the area were continuing.

Flight Lieutenant Andy Cooper, pilot of the RAF helicopter, said: "The topography of the cliff results in quite serious breakers and crushing surf. This makes our searching the foot of the cliff very difficult because of the surf and the white water."

One of the rescued men suffered back injuries. Both were taken to hospital and released yesterday morning after treatment. The holidaymakers, who came from Bristol, were staying at Sandymouth Holiday Park and had been in the area for only a few hours.

John Ramsey, 52, Rebecca's father, said last night: "She loved the sea. I would take her to the beach and she would be overjoyed. I just wish I had been with her. I know that coastline. I know how dangerous it can be. I don't blame the guys. I am sure they did all they could."

"She was a beautiful, loving girl; a real character. She was at that wonderful age where she was interested in everything."

Mr Ramsey, a salesman, separated from Rebecca's mother four years ago but looked after his daughter every other weekend. "All I can



The cliffs overlooking Sandymouth Bay

remember is her hugging and kissing me," he said. "She was so full of energy. I have not spoken to Susan and I believe she is under sedation at the hospital. She will be destroyed. She died on Rebecca just like I did."

A police spokesman said: "The group were swept away in rough seas and it was a case of every man for himself. We will be interviewing the men to find out exactly what happened."

Gordon Whatley, a Fulmouth coastguard spokesman, said: "After we rescued the men we were made aware of a missing girl. Apparently the three were stranded when the tide came in."

"The helicopter and lifeboat were scrambled but we couldn't find anyone. Cornwall is known for its coves and caves but the tides can be very dangerous."

A warning about beach safety was issued by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents yesterday. Malcolm Ellis, a spokesman, said extra care should be taken when walking on coasts not visited before. He also advised holidaymakers to check the times of tides.

At Sandymouth Bay, which is popular with surfers, the tide comes in rapidly to the foot of the cliffs. "What may look a very pleasant spot can become an extremely dangerous spot in a very short time," Mr Ellis said.

rebecca Ramsey went missing after being cut off by waves during a walk on the north Cornwall coast. Coastguards and an RAF helicopter failed to find her body



Rebecca Ramsey went missing after being cut off by waves during a walk on the north Cornwall coast. Coastguards and an RAF helicopter failed to find her body

Killer GP needed more care says widow

BY TIM JONES

A DOCTOR who had killed his daughter was able to commit suicide while being held in a secure unit, despite his wife warning staff that he needed special care, it was claimed yesterday.

Jane Alesworth told an inquest that her husband Patrick, 49, had attempted to kill himself several times. The GP had been committed to the secure Wallingford Clinic at Fairmile Hospital, Cholsey, Oxford, after being convicted of the manslaughter of his daughter Sara, 20, whom he bludgeoned to death at their home in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Last September he was found hanging from a tree with a rope made from strips of shredded trousers after he was allowed to walk alone in the grounds for half an hour.

Mrs Alesworth, 50, told the Oxford inquest that the family had been very supportive towards her husband: "I went to see him about once a week and my younger daughter came with me. I spoke to him most days on the phone. His sister and parents visited regularly."

His suicide attempts, and his anxiety, had usually coincided with her absences, she said. Days before his death, she learnt he had been discovered tearing up his trousers in his room: "Because I was going away for a few days, I rang the unit to say I knew what had happened and said to make sure to take bloody good care of him."

Patricia Kent, a nursing assistant, agreed she had taken the call from Mrs Alesworth but denied she had requested special care: "She just said she knew he had done something naughty."

Dr Henrietta Bullard, a consultant forensic psychiatrist, said Dr Alesworth had been allowed to continue his unescorted walks 24 hours after he had been discovered tearing the trousers into strips.

"It was a substantial change in that he was free to possibly commit suicide," Dr Bullard said. "But he was also free to be trusted and make progress. We didn't regard his unescorted parole as being a risk." The inquest continues.

Honeymoon is over for groom who never had cancer

BY CAROL MIDDLEY

A BRIDEGROOM who was showered with money and gifts after announcing he might die of cancer days after his wedding never had the disease, doctors said yesterday.

The Queen Alexandra Hospital at Cosham, Hampshire, issued a statement that Paul Challis was suffering from an ear infection — not cancer of the cranium as he had claimed — after he was seen being married on regional television.

Mr Challis, 28, and Katy Webster, 18, enjoyed a £4,000 wedding, made possible by sympathetic businesses who donated everything from the

bridal gown, cake and rings to a hired white Rolls-Royce and a champagne reception.

Mr Challis had told the media that two days after the wedding last Saturday he would have an operation to remove part of his skull. He said he had only a 50-50 chance of survival.

But Pat Forsyth, spokeswoman for the hospital, said Mr Challis had mastoiditis. "This is basically an ear infection which had led to a small growth in the ear — it's a fairly common condition. The growth was not cancerous and there was no question of chemotherapy."

The surgeon twice explained the

situation to Mr Challis very carefully before the operation. He was never told he had cancer or that he would be having chemotherapy. The routine operation lasted only an hour and was a complete success.

Mr Challis had told his girlfriend on May 27 that he had cancer and three days later she proposed. The wedding cake, wedding rings, flowers and the use of a white Rolls-Royce were donated by wellwishers. Dresses for the bride and bridesmaids were also supplied free.

Yesterday Mr Challis insisted he had been told that he was suffering from cancer: "I am due to return to hospital in two weeks to start

chemotherapy." He refused to say whether the couple, both unemployed, of Leigh Park, Havant, would be giving back the presents.

Sam Betts, from Copner, Portsmouth, who lent a white stretch limousine for the wedding, said: "People have been made to look like fools."

Fred Arnell, managing director of Picketts and Pursers, a Southsea jeweller, donated Miss Webster's gold wedding ring after being contacted by the family. "When I was told about the situation I thought, 'How awful, of course I'll help.' It was a great shock when I heard he never had cancer at all."



Paul and Katy Challis

Peter Phillips to be questioned about bar brawl

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Princess Royal's son, Peter Phillips, is expected to be asked by police and teachers about an alleged brawl involving local youths and upper-sixth boys from Gordonstoun, the independent school where he and his sister Zara are pupils.

There is no suggestion that Peter was involved, but as Guardian, or head boy, he is expected to liaise with the authorities.

A man whose jaw was broken during the fighting said that Peter, who has gained a place in the Scotland under-18 rugby squad, was among about 20 boys who were eating and drinking in an American theme bar at Elgin, Grampian, when the trouble started. Grampian Police confirmed yesterday that they were investigating an alleged assault.

George More, 20, said that he was taken to hospital in Elgin with a broken jaw after one of the boys hit him in the face with a bottle. Mr More, who was transferred to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, where a metal plate was fitted to his jaw, said that he had been drinking with about ten

friends in the bar in the Stotfield Hotel when an argument started.

"There was a crowd of Gordonstoun boys and a few locals fighting and rolling about in the street," he said. "I was punched on the back of my head and I turned round to grab whoever did it. The next thing I knew I was hit with a bottle."

Mr More's brother David, 17, said that Peter was one of the pupils who tried to calm the situation down.

The owner of the Laverockbank Hotel said: "The Gordonstoun boys do not come here often. They only get out about three times a year, but when they are here they are excellent and very well-behaved. Peter Phillips is a complete gentleman. I don't believe either they or he has done anything wrong."

James Thomas, director of external affairs at the school, said: "The school acknowledges there was an incident in which fighting took place. The school strongly deplores this type of behaviour and deeply regrets any involvement by Gordonstoun pupils. An internal enquiry is continuing."



Kathleen Hill with her brother's George Cross

Hero's sister reunited with cherished medal

BY ROBIN YOUNG AND LOUISE GEVAUX

THE sister of a Second World War hero was reunited yesterday with the George Cross that was awarded to him posthumously.

Kathleen Hill, 68, of Norwich, had been hunting the medal for years since her nephew sold it to raise money for his marriage. It was awarded to her eldest brother, Herbert Henry Reed, for saving the life of the Chief Officer of the SS *Cormount*, a merchant ship on which he was a gunner, in 1941.

Bombardier Reed, then 30, had been hit by aircraft machinegun fire when he carried the badly wounded officer from the bridge to

safety. Bombardier Reed then died, his stomach having been ripped open by bullets.

As a girl of 13, Mrs Hill went to Buckingham Palace with her mother to receive the medal from George VI. After her nephew sold it she sought help in tracing it from Lionel Wheble, secretary of the Marine Royal Artillery Old Comrades' Association. Initial attempts failed but Mr Wheble's son then spotted it by chance at the National Army Museum in Chelsea.

Mrs Hill travelled from Norwich to see it yesterday. "I am absolutely thrilled," she said. "The medal could not have gone to a better place."

We've just added Ashkhabad, Nizhniy Novgorod and Samara to our list of Eastern European destinations.



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Whiter shade of owl in mortal danger

BLONDIE, an albino tawny owl, is perhaps the rarest bird in Britain. There is no record of another albino tawny having been seen in this country, but such rarity is no guarantee of survival.

Experts fear that the owl's extraordinary looks will mark it as an easy target in the wild. Rooks, crows and jackdaws are likely to be ruthless persecutors and it could even be killed by the young tawnies sharing an aviary at the RSPCA's West Hatch animal rescue centre in Somerset.

Records held by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, dating back to the 1860s, show no albino tawny has ever been seen in Britain.



The albino Blondie with another young tawny

Blondie's pink eyes — a sign of pure albinism — are rarely seen in any breed of bird. Derek Niemann of the RSPB said: "We know of no

other tawny owl like this one. It would probably struggle in the wild because it would stand out."

most territorial of birds. Once fully grown they mark out areas over three to four miles and will drive away any other owl attempting to enter. A huge proportion of tawnies are killed like this."

Blondie, only six weeks old, was found dying in a field near Yeovil last month. The fledgling had apparently edged out along a branch to feed and lost its balance.

Colin Seddon, deputy manager at the rescue centre, said: "Our aim is to release her but we won't if that means sending her to her death."

Tawny owls rely heavily on their plumage to camouflage them when they're sitting in trees. This one will stick out a mile."

مركز الأمل

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THE TIMES
Bull
Dia
away



Duchess
fails to raise

FROM PAGE 1
THE Duchess of York, who
close to claiming a divorce
in New York, has been
£1.5 million (£400,000).
The reported divorce
recently in March
prosecutor in the
son case, or the
deal done in the
Rose (11 years).
One reason for
after a divorce
agreed to a
provision in the
will prevent her
"handover" of
marriage, which
she has won
will be able to
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marriage.
The Duchess
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marriage, which
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Schmidt, 41, is
her husband
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The New York
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Bulls 0, Princess 1: Diana celebrates away win in Chicago

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN CHICAGO

TELEVISION stations renamed their weather forecasts "Diana-casts" and spectators sobbed with emotion yesterday as America bowed to the Princess of Wales.

For a city of "Polacks and Paddies", as one barman put it, and whose Irish-descended mayor refused to comment on the visit, Chicago succumbed to an extraordinary bout of red-carpet fever. Crowds screamed like rock fans, a key match by the city's basketball team took second place for many, and politicians were awed by her hand-shaking skills.

Kelly Frederick, 30, a "life-long" devotee, was so overcome by meeting her heroine that her shoulders heaved and tears coursed down her powdered cheeks. "A dream come true," wailed Ms Frederick, who had driven 300 miles to be there and considered her life now complete.

In the official part of the day, the Princess attended a symposium on breast cancer, visited a hospital and dined at a fund-raising gala which attracted the gurgling matrons of Chicago's lakeside boulevards and was co-organised by the management of *People* magazine.

At the Northwestern University symposium, Britain's best-known hospital visitor received two standing ovations. She described cancer as being, for many, "the dreaded C word" and added: "I have witnessed at first-hand significant progress in diagnosis." She quoted a father of the modern Olympics movement, Pierre de Coubertin, who said 90 years ago: "The most important thing in life is not the victory but the contest; the essential thing is not to have won but to have fought well."

Her divorce lawyers presumably take a less sporting view. Cynics wondered if another dreaded C-word might be "Charles".

Veteran observers of the political scene marvelled at the way the Princess worked the crowds, exchanging small talk and shaking hands. Steve Obert, 18, an economics fresh-

The brother of the Princess of Wales has applied for a court order against a photographer who he said was harassing his family. Earl Spencer alleges that Jamie Jason entered the family home in Cape Town disguised as a workman. Lady Spencer said she and her children had been traumatised and no longer felt free to walk in their garden. The case was postponed until Tuesday.

man, said: "I won't wash my hand for weeks." Roderic Williams, 20, studying international business, said: "It was magical. She told me it didn't look like I normally wore a jacket. Said she could tell because she has two boys of her own. She was really maternal." Governor Jim Edgar of Illinois watched and said: "In my line of work, we're envious."

The tortured politics of the House of Windsor were largely overlooked. Chicagoans are enthusiasts and wanted to think only of the good things. News programmes played *God Save the Queen*, anchormen adopted English accents and clips of Sir Winston Churchill were broadcast.

From her bedroom window yesterday the Princess had glorious views of Lake Michigan and of the muscle men who do their morning PT on the city's north shore beach. Even before she checked in, there was a message from a businessman asking her for a date. One TV channel consulted a matchmaker, Heather Stern, who said: "The Princess needs a man to nurture her. We have some wonderful bachelors."

For the Princess, this trip represents a chance to impress on London her ambassadorial potential. It was no mean feat for her to match interest in a Chicago Bulls' game. Deloris Jordan, whose son Michael is a Bulls' star, accepted an invitation to last night's dinner instead of attending the

Bulls' game. It was the first time she has missed a play-off.

Louis B. Susman, a big wheel with the investment house Salomon Brothers, originally turned down an invitation to the dinner as he had a box for the basketball game. His wife reversed his plans.

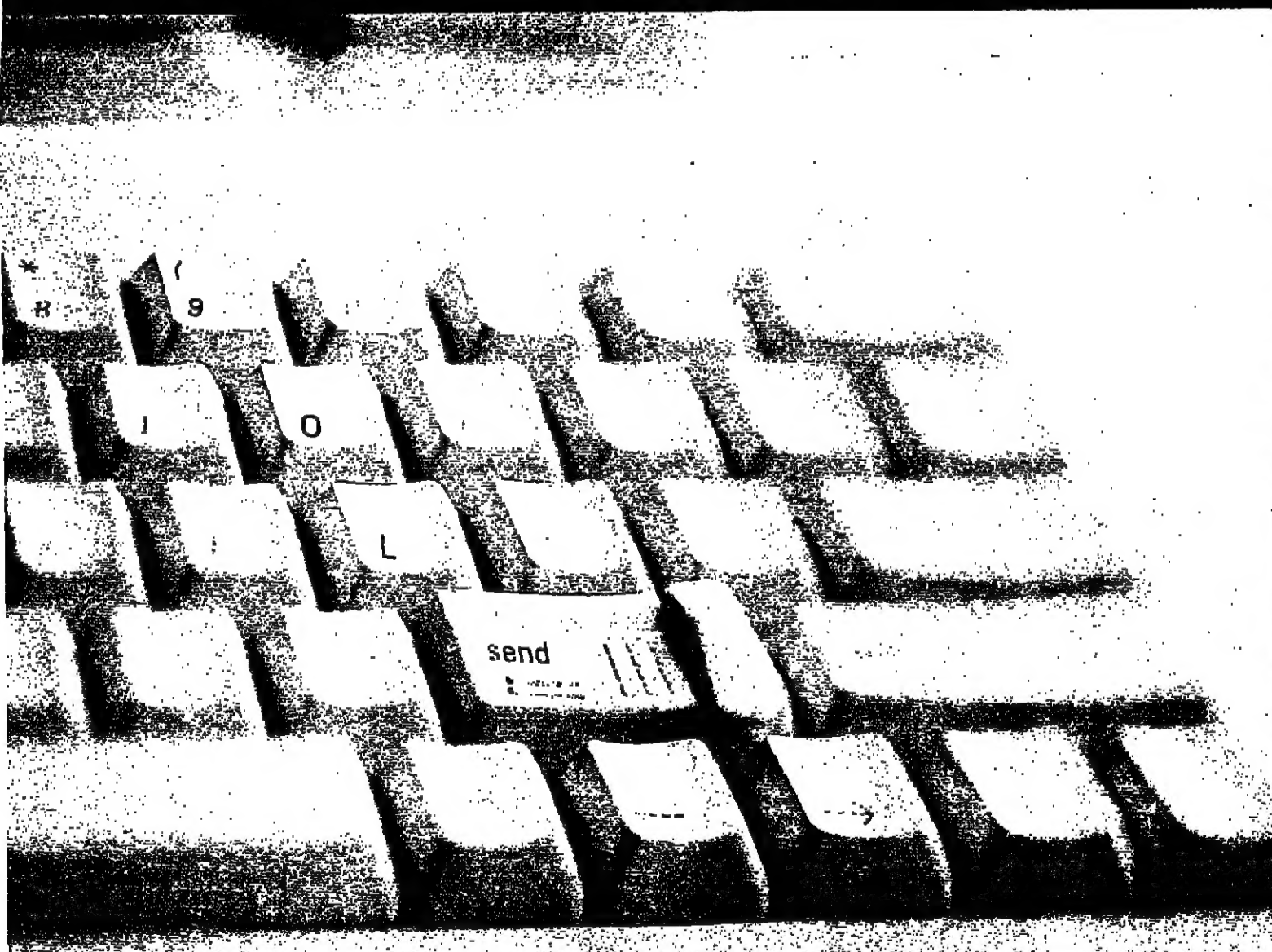
Chicago's mayor, Richard Daley, may have refused to comment on the Princess's presence for fear of sounding too enthusiastic for the liking of his Irish constituency. One judge, Anne Burke, boycotted the dinner as a show of support for a united Ireland. A TV pundit urged the people not to bow and scrape to royalty: "Americans bow to no one!" The advice was widely ignored.

An Irishman who caused a security alert outside Kensington Palace last month was denied access to an American flight from Shannon Airport. Liam Whitney, 36, who says he is in love with the Princess, did not have a passport.



Well-wishers greet the Princess at Northwestern University yesterday. Even the Chicago Bulls were temporarily relegated in the city's affections

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The Duchess of York in New York with her mother

Duchess's story fails to raise £1m

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE Duchess of York was close to signing a book deal in New York last night for \$1.5 million (£840,000).

The reported price falls far short of the \$4.3 million paid recently to Marcia Clark, prosecutor in the O.J. Simpson case, or the \$3 million deal done by the comedienne Rosie O'Donnell.

One reason for the low offer is that the Duchess agreed to a confidentiality provision in her divorce that will prevent her writing a "kiss-and-tell" account of her ten-year marriage. It is unclear how much the Duchess will be able to disclose about her relationship with the Texan John Bryan and other controversies that she has been involved in since her marriage.

The Duchess, who is in New York to attend charity functions, will write her autobiography for Simon & Schuster, the US publisher of her *Budgie the Helicopter* series.

The *New York Post* yesterday quoted one publisher who passed on the autobiography as saying: "We were a

little nervous, since she had nothing in writing to show us, only the promise that she would be open and honest and that she would write about her marriage to some degree." Another editor who met the Duchess said: "She told me that she wants to tell her whole story. A classic women's self-discovery story with all the glamorous trappings, as well as details about what her life will be like as a single parent."

By signing with Simon & Schuster, the Duchess will be able to work with Michael Koorda, one of the top publishers in America. Mr Koorda has handled such celebrities as Jackie Collins, Faye Dunaway, Charlton Heston and Harold Robbins. He is travelling across the United States on a book tour to promote *Man to Man*, his account of his battle with prostate cancer.

This is not the first time the Duchess has sought a seven-figure book deal in New York. In 1994 she tried unsuccessfully to land \$5 million for a mystery novel that mirrored her life and for a children's book about an American girl befriended by a princess on a trip to London.

CORRECTION

Stansted Park, Hampshire, is owned by the Stansted Park Foundation and not by the Earl of Bessborough (report, May 22). The Foundation's agent is Captain John Gowen RN.



SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES

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magazine for young
Times readers

PLUS

Vision, the
seven-day TV and
radio guide

Bon viveurs of the Stone Age uncorked retsina

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE discovery of an ancient retsina has pushed back the origin of wine by 2,000 years. Traces of the wine were found in a fragment of a jar dating from 5,400 to 5,000 BC, when the first human settlements were being established.

The fragment was dug up at a Stone Age site in the Zagros mountains of Iran. Dr Mary Voigt, of William and Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia, was excavating what appears to have been the kitchen of a square, mud-brick building.

A yellowish residue on the pottery was analysed by Dr Voigt and archaeologists from the University of Pennsylvania Museum in Philadelphia. They report in *Nature* that the material contained calcium tartrate and a resin, called terebinth, from a tree belonging to the cashew family.

Terebinth acid occurs commonly only in grapes, the team reports, and was converted into the calcium salt by contact with the soil at the site. The same combination of tartrates and terebinth resin has been found in many ancient amphorae from the Near East, including Egyptian jars known to have contained wine.

The resin would have been added to suppress the bacteria that would otherwise turn

wine into vinegar, and to disguise any unpleasant flavours.

The only well-known wine produced today using resin is retsina from Greece, although it is made with resin from a different plant.

The previous oldest wine, found at Godin Tepe, also in the Zagros mountains, was made by the Sumerians in about 3,500 BC. The team at



Pennsylvania Museum, led by Dr Patrick McGovern, also carried out the analysis that identified this sample.

As the Sumerians are generally regarded as the vanguard of civilised life — pre-dating the Babylonians, Egyptians and Greeks — the new find implies that wine came before civilisation. Some might argue that the two are synonymous, though not the present rulers of Iran, whose strict Islamic laws forbid drinking. The

invention of wine would not have been taxing. The site where the pot was found, which is called Hajji Firuz Tepe, lies within the ancient zone where the wild grape grew and pollen grains from sediment in nearby Lake Urmia show that the source of the resin, *Platanus atlantica*, also grew there.

Grapes acquire a bloom of yeast as they ripen and to start fermentation it is necessary only to break the skins and allow the yeast to come into contact with the juice. The fact that the residue was found on the side of the jar indicates that it was stored on its side, as are wine bottles today, to keep the stopper damp and seal the contents.

The research team said that the find was particularly significant because of the impact of wine on social customs, religions and economies throughout the world. The Egyptians, who rated wines on a scale of "good", "good good", "good good good" and "sweet", are known to have been producing it by 2,500 BC, and the Ancient Greeks had an active wine trade.

The Romans were responsible for bringing grape cultivation to almost all the regions of Europe famous for wine today.

Leading article, page 21



Nicola Maynard: working at hospital that treated her

Patient path to medicine

A WOMAN has returned to the hospital that saved her life when she was 15 — this time as a trainee doctor. Nicola Maynard, 21, was motivated to take up a medical career after doctors helped her to overcome leukaemia.

She had plied doctors with questions as she underwent chemotherapy treatment at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Bristol. Miss Maynard, now a third-year clinical medical student of Chulmleigh, Devon, said: "Beating leukaemia and passing my exams gave me the belief in myself that I could become a doctor and help people, as I was helped."

"When I went back to school I worked a lot harder and found I was quite capable and got the A-level grades I needed to do medicine."

Describing the discovery of her illness, she said: "I went for a blood test and was called back to the doctors on the same night. I had four lots of chemotherapy over the next four months."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Archbishop supports £14m centre for Bible

Plans were disclosed yesterday for a £14 million "Bible heritage centre" in York, to be opened in 1999 in what is now a derelict warehouse. Computer technology and film, video and drama displays will bring the Bible to life. The Rev Rob Richards, of St Albans diocese, thought up the idea and heads a consortium of individuals and groups including the Bible Society. The Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, supports the scheme. A planning application has been submitted to York City Council and funds are being sought.

Heart girl home

Rachel Howker, 11, flew home after having heart surgery in Florida, where she was on a trip to Disney World. She was holding a talking bear, given to her by Tampa Children's Hospital, Orlando, which plays tapes of breathing and physiotherapy exercises.

Player's trial

Kevin Campbell, the Nottingham Forest footballer, chose crown court trial when he appeared before the city's magistrates accused of indecently assaulting a woman aged 21 at a nightclub. His unconditional bail was extended until July 31.

Seventh victim

A seventh member of an Irish family died yesterday from burns received in a house fire last Sunday that killed his mother, two brothers and three sisters. The death of Colm Mayer, 27, was announced at their funeral in Portlaoise, Co Laois.

Red not dead

Isle of Wight County Council will sling a rope bridge across a busy road next week to save red squirrels from being run over. The road divides woodland at Ryde that is a haven for some of the 1,500 red squirrels living on the island free from their grey rivals.

Smoke alarm

A 30-mile cloud of smoke caused by a fire in a plastics recycling plant near Milton Keynes drifted low over parts of Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire before breaking up. Police urged people to stay indoors and seek medical help if they felt unwell.

Tourism rises

There were 4.63 million overseas visitors to Britain in the first three months of the year, despite the bad weather and fears about the IRA. The figure was up 8 per cent on the same period last year, raising hopes of a record year in the tourist industry.

Cash for organ

Gerry Galvin, of Drimmonagh House in Molyculen, Galway, won £1,000 as Guinness Irish Chef of the Year. His winning menu was smoked eel and muscle hotpot, spiced pork roast with apple and thyme cream sauce and tipsy pudding in mulled wine.

Cash for organ

The National Lottery heritage fund is giving £76,000 towards the £500,000 needed to restore an organ that Milton once played and Cromwell listened to. The Milton Organ, built for Magdalen College, Oxford, was installed in Tewkesbury Abbey in 1738.

Family break-up adds to strain on green belt sites

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

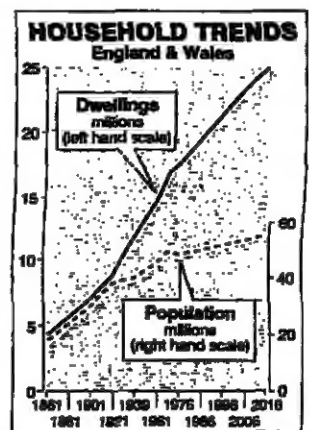
AN AGEING population and the break-up of the family are threatening the landscape of rural England, John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, said yesterday.

Government figures forecast that the number of households will grow by 4.4 million by 2016, leading to millions of new homes being built across the South. Mr Gummer told the Royal Town Planning Institute's annual conference, in Brighton. To meet forecasts, an area larger than greater London would be put under concrete.

Mr Gummer said the environmental threat to areas such as southeast, southern and southwest England, where experts predicted demand would be highest, was significant and needed to be faced now.

Environmental campaigners accused the Government of failing to stimulate building in inner cities or to develop derelict land. The Government, in its 1995 White Paper *Our Future Homes*, set a target of building half of all new housing on urban land by 2005. Figures released last month show that the target is about to be met, nearly ten years ahead of schedule, with 40 per cent of new housing being built on such sites.

Tony Burton, of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said yesterday: "The household projections... are not a target that has to be met. A new approach to managing housing development is needed which encourages urban renewal and the provision of



affordable homes if we are to house the nation and protect the countryside."

He said there were about 800,000 empty homes in England that needed to be used before new homes were built in the countryside and called for greater use of urban land.

Environment Department officials fear that, in the South at least, the level of inner-city sites able to cope with the forecasts for new housing might be insufficient even if planning guidelines are strengthened.

Mr Gummer said population growth had stabilised but the average household was getting smaller. Family breakdown meant that, if trends continued, by 2016 only 20 per cent of households would be married couples with children.

He said planning policies were trying to steer development into inner cities rather than sites on the edge of towns or in the green belt. Environment ministers would raise the issues at centres around the country this year.

New life for man who took hair transplant on the chin

By JEREMY LAURANCE

A MAN taunted with the nickname Scarface since he was badly burnt in a childhood accident has had a pioneering £4,000 beard transplant to hide his disfigured chin.

Glenn Yates, 32, suggested the idea after seeing adverts for hair transplants for balding men. Yesterday he said: "It's wonderful. My confidence is coming back and I can lead a normal life."

The accident happened when he set a scarf on fire as he played with matches as a four-year-old. He had six months in hospital and two years of operations to graft skin onto his lower face.

"The other kids called me all manner of names," said Mr Yates, a Channel ferry chef. "I left school when I was 16 and thought that things might get better but they didn't. Adults were just as cruel." After qualifying as a chef, he found it difficult to



Yates: scarred himself as a four-year-old

get a job. At one restaurant, the boss told him he would have to see if the waitresses would accept him. "It made me feel like a weirdo and I walked out after a week."

After experts said nothing could be done about his scars, he paid for the beard transplant at a Manchester

clinic. At first it was not certain whether hairs from the side of his head would grow in the facial scar tissue on his face, but results of the first treatment session were promising. After two years, his beard is almost complete.

Dr Bessam Farjo, who carried out the treatment at the Farjo Medical Centre, said: "No one has ever attempted a beard transplant before. Glenn originally approached us after he saw an advert in a paper for a normal hair transplant."

The procedure involves taking a strip of scalp 1cm wide by 7cm long from the back or side of the head, which yields several hundred grafts. The strip is dissected into grafts 2mm wide, carrying one or two hairs each, which are slotted into tiny incisions in the chin.

Mr Yates has undergone five operations over two years but not all the grafts have taken. He is expected to need another two.

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Police say FA has failed to keep rival Euro 96 fans segregated

By STEWART TENDLER

THE police co-ordinator for Euro 96 gave a warning yesterday that control of ticket sales had failed, increasing the risk of clashes in grounds between rival fans.

Malcolm George said it was "of great concern" to police that the rigid segregation of fans originally envisaged did not appear to have materialised. There was also worry about plans by the Football Association to sell tickets on match days.

Mr George said there were further worries that the behaviour of the England team on a flight home from the Far East had set a bad example. "Any incident or alleged incident affecting any of the national squads does not reflect well and does not help the situation when it is only days away from the competition."

The FA denied its new policy would affect segregation and said that the only tickets available would be in neutral areas of grounds. Police fear

An anti-hooligan van with hydraulic cameras that can be raised up to 30ft will be used for the first time in Britain by Greater Manchester Police monitoring Euro 96. The Skyhawk has nine cameras which can film different angles simulta-

neously. Manchester police will also be authorised to stop and search people. Chief Supt Peter Harris said: "We hope visitors will be able to go about their business in a safe way. But if necessary we will take very positive action."

neously. It means that we have to deploy, we have to be extra vigilant in managing and monitoring." Mr George said there was anxiety about tickets appearing on the black market. "It means they are accessible to people we do not want there."

Detective Chief Inspector Bryan Drew, who heads the football hooligan intelligence operation, said that tickets from other countries that had not taken up their allocations were appearing on the black market. The spare tickets were on offer in Europe and Britain. Police had discovered that Turkish tickets were circulating. Mr George said that talks about controlling ticket sales

for violence. He means that we have to deploy, we have to be extra vigilant in managing and monitoring."

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begin two years ago. Police had asked for no tickets to be sold on the day of a game but commercial pressures meant tickets were now going on sale. Segregation made it easier for commanders to manage the crowds, he said. Now forces would have to put more officers into stadiums.

Yesterday the FA said that tickets would be available for sale at grounds in the days before a match for England fans to watch foreign games. No tickets will be sold at the grounds on the day of a game but local clubs can sell tickets on the day from city-centre sites.

Anyone wanting tickets will have to prove their identity and to be resident in Britain. If the ticket-holder or someone with the ticket misbehaves in the ground the police and club will be able to check records and investigate them. There could be instances where a few partisan supporters entered neutral areas of grounds.

Letters, page 21
Czech males, page 48



Malcolm George fears that rival fans will gain entry to neutral sections of the match grounds

Women hope to get away from it all

By RUSSELL JENKINS

ONE woman in six who is travelling abroad this weekend has timed her holiday to escape from the saturation television coverage of Euro 96, according to a survey.

The survey, carried out for the travel insurance company Home and Overseas, discloses that many women who would normally travel abroad for their holidays have deliberately chosen the three weeks of the competition. Even more men — one in five, according to the poll — have arranged their holidays so they can stay home and watch the tournament on television.

Sarah Joannides, marketing manager for Home and Overseas, said: "One man's meat is clearly another man's poison. But in either case, Euro 96 could be a real boost for the UK tourist industry, both home and away."

Travel agents will have warned those going abroad that they will have to go a long way for a football-free holiday. The championship is being televised in 190 countries. Thomas Cook advises a cruise in the Norwegian fjords for remoteness and the fact that Norway failed to qualify for the competition. Lunn Poly suggests an Alaskan cruise. The charter airline Leisure International is to issue cabin staff with handcuffs to restrain violent and drunken passengers this summer.

Travel News, pages 34 and 35

England v Switzerland is sold out — unless you can spare £225

By MICHAEL HORSNELL AND RAGWALD MARTEL

BLACK-MARKET tickets for England's opening games in the Euro 96 football tournament are being offered for up to £400 a pair. Inquiries by

The Times confirmed fears that illegal sales could be putting security arrangements at risk.

One tout operating from an office in Southwark said yesterday that this week he had sold his stock of 68 tickets for

the opening match between England and Switzerland at Wembley on Saturday, long officially sold out.

The tout earlier offered a pair of tickets with a face value of £55 each for £225 each, and the pair for £400.

He said he would be getting a further supply for the match, and that black-market tickets for the other England matches — against Scotland on June 15 and against Holland on June 18 — would be available next week. He did not ask

about the nationality of would-be purchasers but said they would be sitting among England supporters.

Other inquiries secured the offer of tickets for £125 for the Switzerland game from an agency advertising in national newspapers; another offered a pair for £325.

Neither of these sources sought to discover the nationality of purchasers. They thus jeopardised plans to segregate supporters. Suppliers are also defying the Euro 96 policy of limiting ticket applications to four per person and

of including the holder's name on each ticket.

Police are preparing for the danger that rival fans might be sitting next to each other. Fans have been allowed to buy tickets only from national federations, sitting with fellow nationals. It is not known where the touts are getting their tickets. However, it is believed that surplus tickets are coming from overseas federations and travel operators who cannot dispose of them.

The only legal outlets for tickets in England are the Euro 96 Hotline, the eight

grounds staging matches, and corporate hospitality agencies. Of 1.4 million tickets for the tournament, only 140,000 remain unsold. Vetting of ticket applications has led to 2,000 multiple applications being rejected by Euro 96.

Andrew Walpole, a Euro 96 spokesman, said: "There is no widespread black market and recent evidence suggests we have beaten the touts." This year, fewer black-market tickets had been sold at the Cup Final because the police had greater powers, and he was confident about security.

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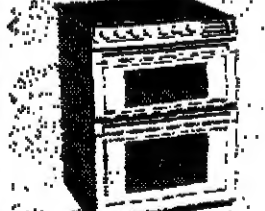
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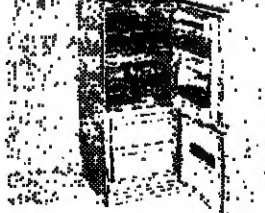
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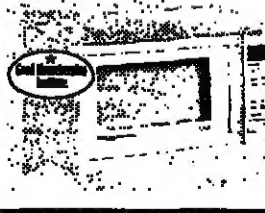
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150 من الأصل

The Referendum Party

The Question

The Referendum Party welcomes the Referendum Bill to be brought before the House of Commons on Tuesday, 11th June, by cross-party pro-referendum MPs.¹

In the Bill, the wording for the proposed Ballot paper for the referendum is:

Preamble:

The United Kingdom Government, as a continuing member of the European Community and the European Union, is in the course of negotiations for the revision of the Treaty of European Union.

The Question:

"DO YOU WANT THE UNITED KINGDOM TO PROPOSE AND INSIST ON IRREVERSIBLE CHANGES IN THE TREATY ON EUROPEAN UNION SO THAT THE U.K. RETAINS ITS POWERS OF GOVERNMENT AND IS NOT PART OF A FEDERAL EUROPE NOR OF A EUROPEAN MONETARY UNION, INCLUDING A SINGLE CURRENCY?"

This question addresses the fundamental national issue: do the people wish the UK, as a continuing member of the EU, to be part of a European federal superstate into which Europe's nations would be merged. Or, do they insist that the UK be a continuing member of the EU which would be a family of sovereign nations with institutions based on the principle of political co-operation. That is to say a Europe of Nations.

A Referendum is necessary because the leadership of the Labour and Lib-Dem parties embrace, with enthusiasm, the concept of a federal Europe. For its part, the Government, despite its words, has allowed the accelerating transfer of national sovereignty to Brussels. So electors have never been granted a choice.

The government is not credible when it claims that

there will be no federal Europe for so long as it is in power.

This is the government that agreed and signed the federalist Treaty of Maastricht and forced it through Parliament. Its members in the European Parliament are allied to a party, the European People's Party, whose written proposals state: "Our aim is a Union built on the principles of federalism". In other words, it proposes a federal European superstate.

As Britain's foremost constitutionalist, A.V. Dicey, wrote: "the main use of the Referendum is to prevent the passing of any important Act which does not command the sanction of the electors".² "The Referendum supplies... the best, if not the only possible, check upon ill-considered alterations in the fundamental institutions of the country".³

If you wish to become a supporter of The Referendum Party please write to:

Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, Westminster, London SW1P 2AF.

Tel: 0181-563 1155. Fax: 0181-563 1156. (After June 13th) Tel: 0171-227 8500. Fax: 0171-227 8519.

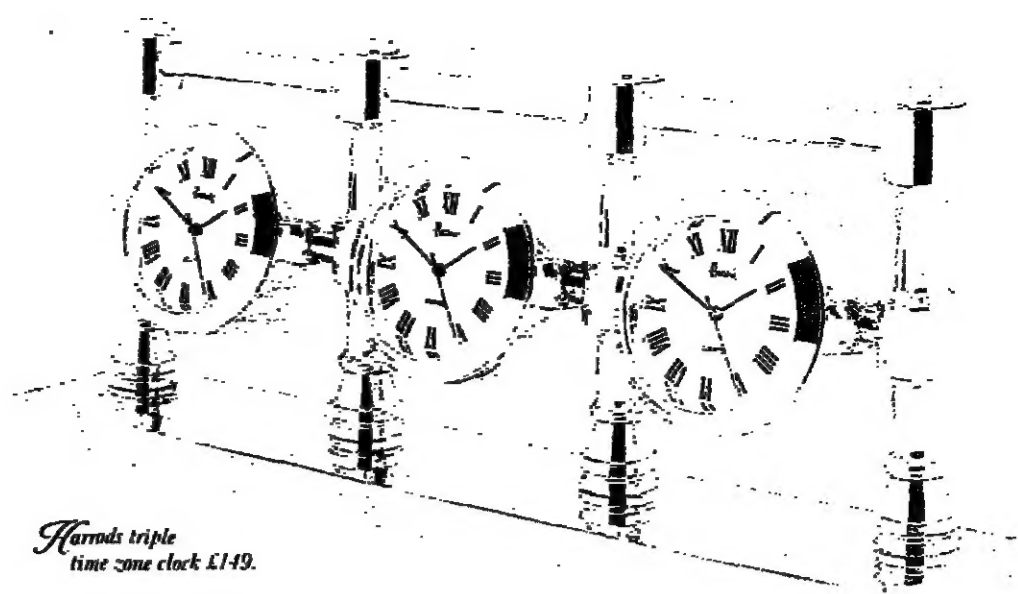
1. Referendum Bill to be introduced by William Cash MP. 2. Dicey A.V. *Introduction to the Study of the Law of the Constitution*: 8th Edition, London, 1920, p xcii. 3. Dicey A.V. "Ought the Referendum to be introduced in England", *Contemporary Review*, Vol LVII, April 1890, p 505.

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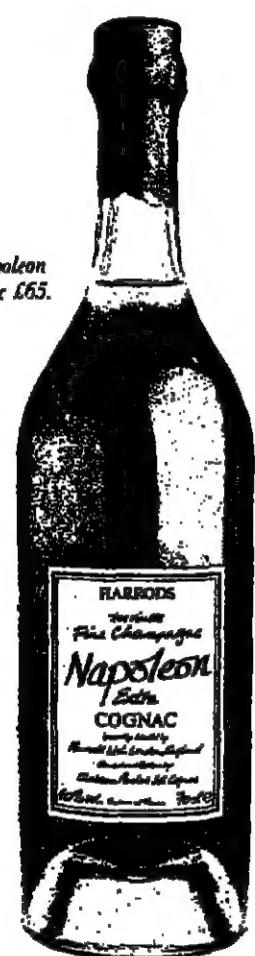


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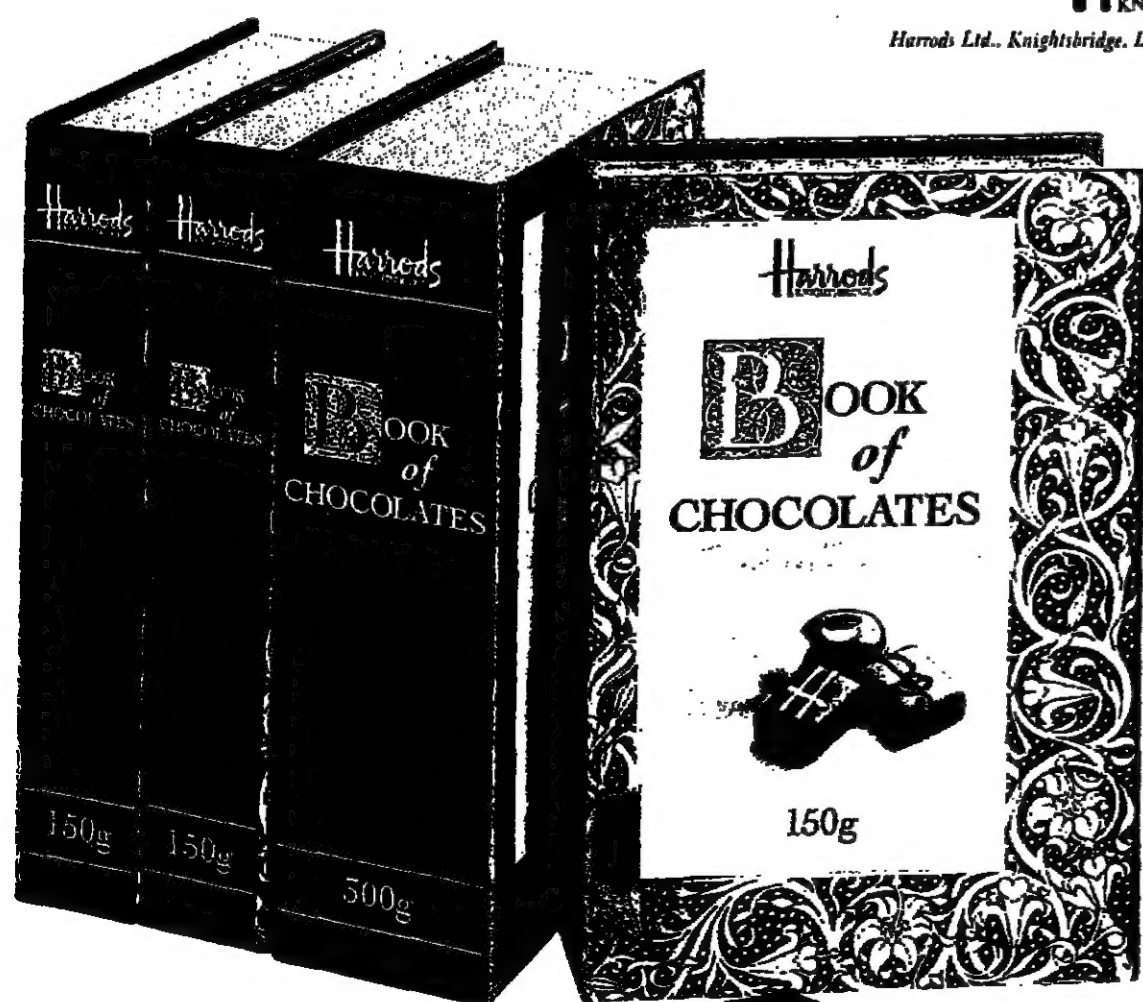
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By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

the board said the correct date was clearly marked on the envelope containing the papers. It decided to recall 569 papers sent out to 59 schools to avoid any risk of other candidates learning of the questions in advance. Next year's paper is being sent by special delivery to every centre this week, but the scripts of the West Demon pupils will not be disqualified.

Ms Slater said: "The teacher examinations board said: 'Although only seven people sat this written part it was seven too many. They could have known paper from other schools, due to all the same paper, so we took the decision to recall the papers.'

"Next year's exam paper had gone through the evaluation committee stage but had not been printed so we had to instruct the printers to get to work fast. We have had to go to a lot of extra expense."

"Next year's exam paper had gone through the evaluation committee stage but had not been printed so we had to instruct the printers to get to work fast. We have had to go to a lot of extra expense."

Churchill.

S. GEORGE'S SCHOOL, ASCOT.

Report from March 1st to April 1st 1884

Place in School Order in Division at the end of last Term.		5 th	Present place in 2 nd School order. for 1883-84.		6 th
---	--	-----------------	--	--	-----------------

Place in 4 th	Division of	11	Boys for	School.	6 th
Composition		Improved.			
Translation		Improved.			
Grammar		Improved.			
Diligence		Cardinal has been exceedingly bad. He is not to be trusted & do away our things. He has however, notwithstanding made decided progress.			
No. of those into		20. very disagreeable. VS 1/2 bad. Heston			

THE
CHARTWELL
TRUST

Place in 4 th		But of	11	Boys for	School.	6 th
Mathematics		Improved.				
French		Improved.				
German		~				

Scripture 1 st	60 out of 120. f				
History	Very good, especially history. — Both very much improved — Promising. fair, considering. <i>J. Martin Cooke.</i>				
Geography					
Writing and Spelling					
Music					
Drawing					

General Conduct	Very bad — is a constant trouble to every body, and is a nuisance in some respects or other.				
Headmaster's Remarks	He cannot be trusted to behave himself properly. He has VS 1/2, & is a trouble.				

Head Master.
 Heston, 11/2/1884.

By JOHN YOUNG

Visitors can see his commission by Queen Victoria as a second lieutenant in the 4th



The exhibition is open Mondays to Saturdays from 9.30am to 4.45pm. Entry is free.

Not all
miracles
are
made in
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A picture of health for generations



Bridge transports long-suffering drivers to Severn heaven

By ALAN HAMILTON

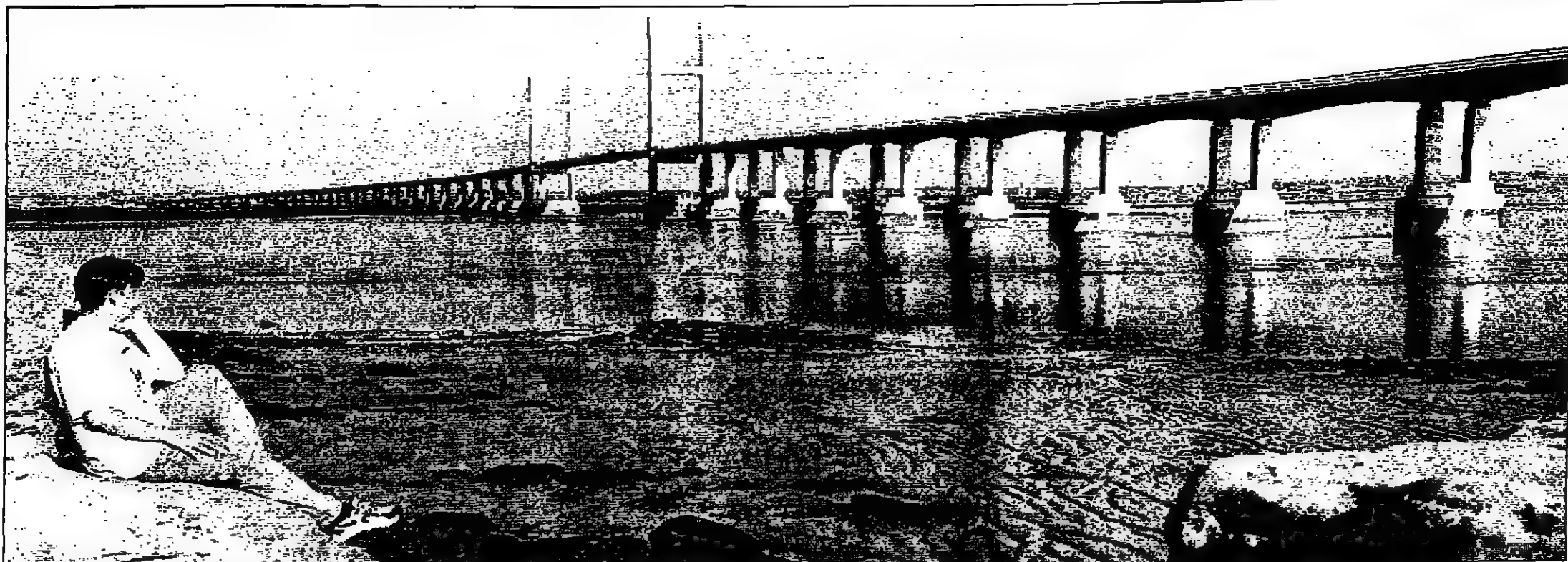
THE Prince of Wales yesterday opened the first bridge linking England directly with his principality, which will shave three miles and much frustration off the journey from London to Cardiff.

Built and operated by an Anglo-French consortium with £350 million of private capital, the Second Severn Crossing was completed on time, within budget and with no loss of life. Described by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, as a combination of engineering and elegance, the bridge is the longest in Britain at three miles including its approach viaducts.

Nearly three quarters of the traffic crossing the Severn is expected to use the new bridge rather than its 30-year-old upstream sister, which suffers from congestion and closure during high winds. The original bridge, which strictly speaking leaps from one Gloucestershire shore to another before crossing the Wye into Wales, has carried 300 million vehicles.

Police, alerted by the demonstration which drove the Queen out of Aberystwyth last Friday, mounted a huge security operation yesterday and sealed off the bridge on both shores. But in Gwent, where only 2 per cent of the population are Welsh speakers, there was little sign of nationalist fervour, only a low grumbling about the tolls.

Old and new Severn bridges charge £3.80 for a car and £11.50 for a lorry to enter Wales, although the return to



The Second Severn Crossing, which cost £330 million, opens to the public today, four years after construction started. Below, the plaque at the centre of the structure, unveiled by the Prince of Wales

England is free. The crossing is the third most expensive in Britain after the Humber and Skye bridges.

No one was able to think of a suitable name for the bridge and it is stuck for good with its working title. A Welsh suggestion that it be named *Ail Bont Hafren* (Severn Island Bridge), because some of the piers of the viaducts rest on the English Stones reef, failed to catch on.

Yesterday, the accompaniment of cheers from hun-

dreds of children and a 21-gun salute, the Prince first cut a ribbon at the English abutment. At the centre of the bridge he unveiled a commemorative plaque in English and Welsh before an identical ribbon-cutting at the Welsh abutment. At both ceremonies the national anthem and the children's flags were identical. *Land Of My Fathers* was not played, and the only Welsh dragon was the official one flying beside the Union flag and the con-

struction company's flag in the centre of the structure.

In what may be seen as a minor concession, the toll booths on the new bridge, unlike the old, are situated on the Welsh side.

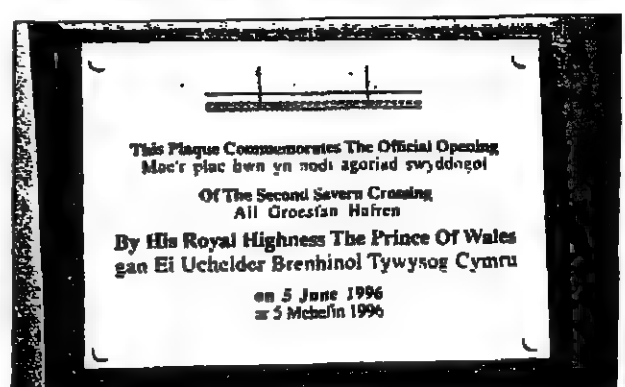
The elegance of the new bridge cannot conceal some failings in the project. The M49 loop, which will link the M5 to the M4 at the bridge and bring Cardiff 13 miles nearer to Bristol, is behind schedule and will not open until the end of this month.

Motorway organisations are also unhappy at the steep tolls. The RAC said yesterday that the bridge would do nothing to stop the 1,000 vehicles a day, mostly heavy lorries, that enter Wales by the byways of Gloucestershire to avoid paying tolls.

The bridge was due to open to the public in the early hours of this morning after workmen had painted white lines at the new junctions. Almost the last, and certainly the smallest, construction bill

was paid by the Prince who, on being handed the ceremonial scissors by two local children, gave them each a penny in an ancient tradition that is said to prevent the recipient from being stabbed.

The French, equal partners in the project, hardly got a look-in yesterday. The Prince led dignitaries to a marquee where they toasted the opening in Welsh sparkling wine from the most northerly chardonnay vineyard, a grape picker's spit from the bridge.



University board backs tobacco sponsorship

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

SENIOR academics at Cambridge University have recommended accepting a £1.6 million donation from one of the world's biggest tobacco firms, but dons will make the final decision.

Next month 3,300 staff are to vote on whether a chair in international relations should be established in the name of Sir Patrick Sheehy, former chairman of BAT Industries.

Sir David Williams, Cambridge's Vice-Chancellor, has received almost 200 objections from health campaigners outside the university. Several prominent academics, including the university's senior medical academic, Sir Keith Peters, the Professor of Physic, lodged personal complaints at a meeting last week.

The university announced yesterday that its General Board had "no hesitation" in recommending acceptance of the offer but said: "Acceptance was not and is not seen as

constituting any endorsement of the products or the corporate policies of the company."

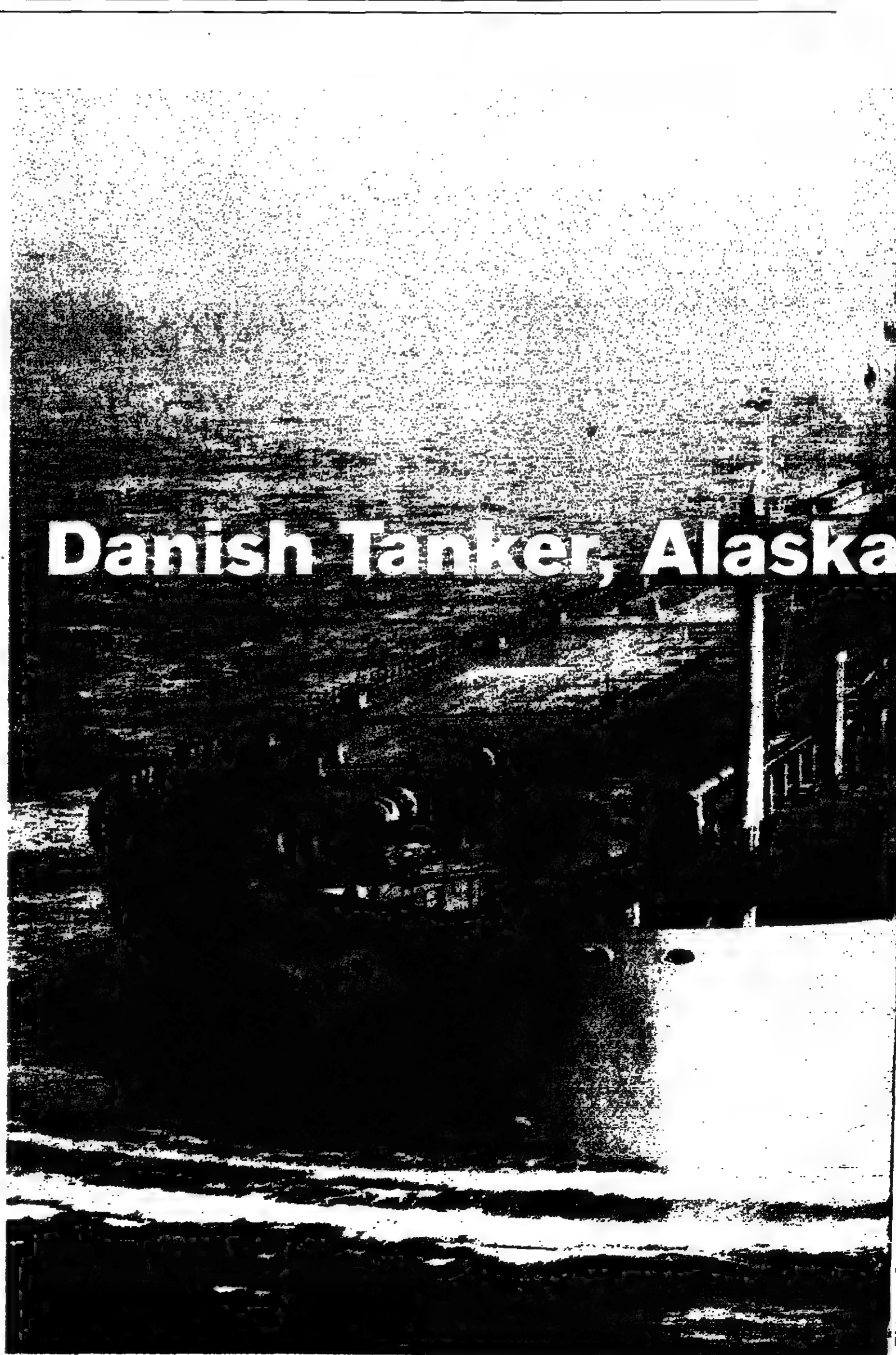
The official account in the Cambridge University Reporter explains that the Centre for International Studies was in the process of seeking funds for a professorship and for strengthening its academic activities: "The offer of funding from BAT Industries was therefore very opportune at a time when the board have many competing claims from faculties and departments."

During last week's meeting, Sir Keith said: "Tobacco is a major health problem in all countries and control of cigarette smoking is the single most powerful opportunity for preventative medicine in the developed world. I greatly regret that I seem to be opposing the acquisition of funds which will benefit as worthy a cause as international relations. I would have warmly welcomed funding for this cause, but in

my judgment the cost to the university is too great."

The chair would be named after Sir Patrick to mark his retirement as chairman of BAT Industries and pay tribute to his support of Cambridge University. The company's current chairman, Lord Cairns, said: "The board is delighted to be able to honour Pat Sheehy's immense achievements in this way, especially given his many contributions in the field of international relations and the role he played in saving the Royal Commonwealth Society Library and transferring it to Cambridge."

Dons vote on about five issues a year, but normally ballots are held only when a formal request has been made. The university council has decided to short-circuit the process this time because of the strength of feeling on the issue. The result should be known on July 19.



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BUSINESS

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**Sears report
'inaccurate'**

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report.

These relate to the
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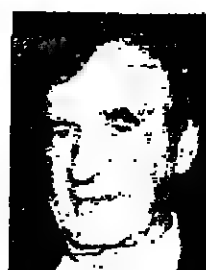
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Brainstorming time for the man who must deliver



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Should holiday companies boycott Burma?



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Elie Wiesel and his story of survival

CREME 96
A SPECIAL
16-PAGE
SUPPLEMENT

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY JUNE 6 1996

Drought-plagued water company raises profits 14.2%

Yorkshire in £140m share buyback plea

By Christine Buckley

YORKSHIRE Water, which has been severely criticised for not investing more on improving water supply to customers, is to seek fresh approval to spend at least £140 million on a share buyback.

Yorkshire's plans to secure the consent of shareholders to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares were disclosed as the company reported a 14.2 per cent rise in annual profits and increased dividends by 12.2 per cent.

The company, which came under sustained attack last year for mishandling the summer drought, made £162.2 million in pre-tax profits in the year to March 31 against £142 million in the previous year.

Labour savaged Yorkshire, claiming it was raking in profits while delivering an appalling performance. Frank Dobson, Shadow Environment Secretary, said: "Under this Government, the privatised companies are allowed to get away with anything — rip off customers, leak one-third of their water, damage the environment — yet they're not properly regulated and they pay next to no tax."

Earlier this week Ofwat, the water industry regulator, imposed a price cap on Yorkshire as punishment for its poor customer record. The share buyback scheme will anger consumers who feel the money might be better spent on improving water supply.

Yesterday, Brandon Gough, Yorkshire's new chairman, said that a share buyback would not be launched at the moment because of customer considerations. "We thought it

wasn't appropriate to do so today. The principle aim is to restore customer confidence."

Mr Gough joined the company six weeks ago. Brian Wilson, finance director, said a buyback within the next month would be "heroic in the extreme". But he indicated that if customer confidence was restored this year a buyback could then proceed.

Yorkshire Water, which has one of the worst leakage rates in the country, is to invest an extra £12 million this year in leakage detection. Although it spent £47 million last year on the tankering operation from the Tees to Yorkshire, the company denied that the leakage spend was small.

Pennington, page 27

Kevin Bond, head of water services, said that the company would only reduce leakage "to a level at which it is economic to do so". He said: "We need to understand leaks more before we assign more money. The level of understanding in the industry is quite low." The company's current leakage is 29 per cent but Mr Bond said it will be reduced substantially when this year's figure is reported later this year.

The company is estimating a current rate of 26 per cent. Ofwat's target is 24 per cent, which would represent leakage from the system of less than 370 mega litres a day. A million gallons is equal to 4.5 mega litres.

The company pledged to deliver dividend growth of

between 6 per cent and 8 per cent and said it would use debt to fund some dividend payment. The company has gearing of 12 per cent but said it wanted to raise the level to between 30 per cent and 40 per cent over the next few years.

The dividend payment this year has been lifted 12.3 per cent, taking the total to 31p. Its long term plans are to reduce dividend cover from three times to two times.

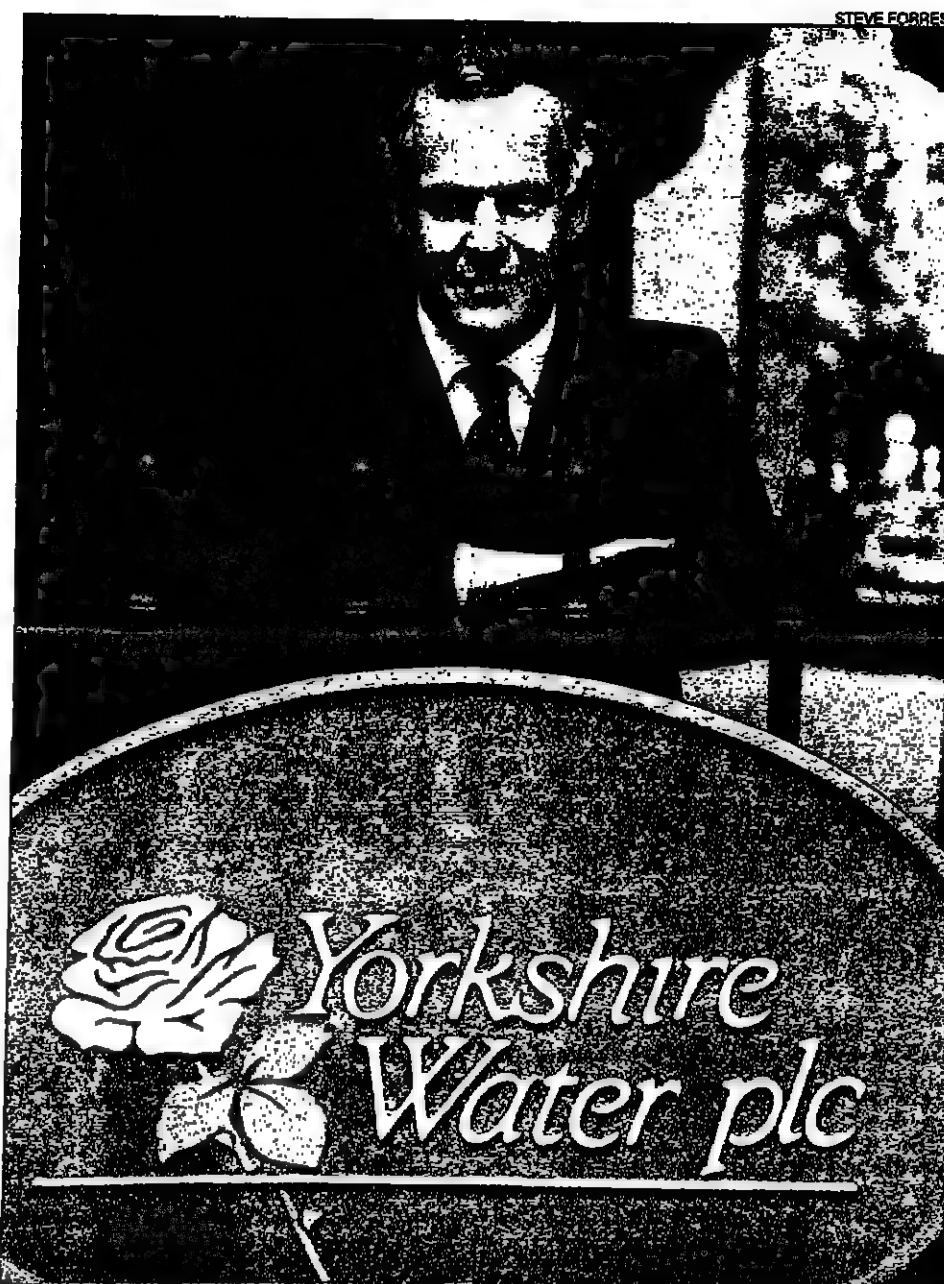
The company acknowledged that failure last year had resulted in a poor public perception.

Mr Bond said that Yorkshire agreed with much of the sharply critical Ofwat report into its conduct during the drought and that of its own, independently conducted, inquiry. He said the company had learned from its failures and was able to guarantee supplies this year even if rainfall is less than in 1995.

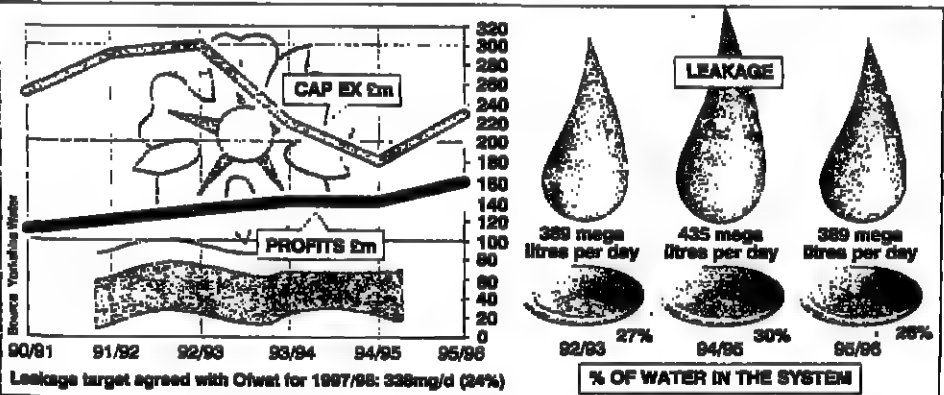
The regulator's report into the company's conduct resulted in a two-year price cap starting next year, which means it can raise its prices to domestic customers only by the rate of inflation. At present it is able to impose prices at the rate of inflation plus 2.5 points.

TBCA, the European credit rating agency, has put Yorkshire's short-term rating of A1 plus and long-term rating of AA minus on watch with negative implications because of the regulator's move.

Yorkshire has injected £170 million into improving river supplies from the north and enabling pump transference of water from east to west in the region.



Brandon Gough, chairman, said the principle aim was to improve customer confidence



BBA bid interest in Lucas threatens Varsity tie

By Alasdair Murray

BBA GROUP, the engineering company, looks set to launch a takeover bid worth up to £2.65 billion for Lucas Industries, which could scupper the planned Lucas merger with Varsity Corporation.

In a Stock Exchange announcement yesterday, BBA admitted that it was interested in bidding for Lucas. But there was also continuing speculation that another party might enter the fray, with Landemann and Linde, two German companies, tipped to launch a counter-bid. Siemens, also from Germany, has ruled itself out of any bid.

Lucas immediately claimed a bid from BBA offered no industrial logic and would overstretch the company's financial resources. Concerns over BBA's ability to fund a deal caused its shares to fall 21½p to 295½p, while Lucas shares rose 8p to 254p. BBA is valued at £1.2 billion, little more than half of Lucas's £2.2 billion market capitalisation.

An all-shares bid is unlikely to find favour with the City, putting pressure on BBA to offer a mixture of cash-and-shares worth between 270p and 300p per Lucas share.

The £3.2 billion Lucas-Varsity tie-up, which was announced last Friday, had received strong support from the City. But analysts believe the 15 major institutions that control around 60 per cent of Lucas's share capital could still be swung by a good bid premium.

BBA are likely to emphasise the advantages of a merger between its friction-braking division and Lucas's braking business.

There has been speculation that BBA will sell Lucas's aerospace and electrical divisions to raise around £600 million to help to fund the bid.

Pennington, page 27
Stock market, page 28

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3753.4	(-1.8)
Yield	4.04%	
FT-SE All share	1885.49	(-1.80)
Nikkei	21851.43	(-23.31)
New York		
Dow Jones	5666.08	(+0.37)
S&P Composite	672.96	(+0.40)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5%)
Long Bond	5 7/8%	(5 7/8%)
Yield	7.00%	(7.00%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	8 1/4%	(8 1/4%)
Life long gilt	106 1/8	(106 1/8)

STERLING

New York	1.5477	(1.5481)
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London	1.5482	(1.5489)
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DM	2.3675	(2.3741)
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FF	5.0246	(5.0376)
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¥	1.9430	(1.9465)
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¥	166.51	(166.55)
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£ index	86.4	(86.5)
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Tokyo close Yen 108.80		
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Brent 15-day (Aug)	817.50	(817.60)
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London close	8387.88	(8389.95)
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* denotes midday trading price

Interest rate change unlikely

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, met Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England yesterday to discuss interest rates. Few in the City are expecting the Bank to signal a change in rates today. The meeting went on for longer than normal — one and a half hours — prompting some speculation that the two cannot agree on policy. But it is as likely to reflect the difficulty of judging the direction of the economy at a time when manufacturing is very weak but consumer sectors are picking up. The Chancellor is to discuss the economic outlook.

Economic View, page 29

Sears report under fire for 'inaccuracies' on Facia

By Jason Nisse

THE board of Sears, the retail group, is to come under pressure from institutional shareholders angry about perceived inaccuracies in its annual report.

These relate to the relationship of Sears with Stephen Hinchliffe's Facia Group, which collapsed over the weekend. Sears sold five shoe chains to Facia, incurring a loss of £54.2 million, and has made a further £25 million provision to cover the group's collapse.

The Sears report reached shareholders on Friday, the day Facia was put into administration. It was printed on the Wednesday, six days after Sears started talking to Alan Barrett, an insolvency partner at Price Waterhouse, about pulling the plug on Facia.

Leading investors are pointing to three statements in the

accounts, audited by Price Waterhouse, which charged £900,000 for the audit.

In his review, David Defy, finance director, says: "Sears has sold Freeman Hardy Willis, Trueform, Manfield, Saxone (and) Curtess... eliminating our exposure to losses in these businesses." In the notes to the accounts, Sears refers to those businesses as "sold" in note 3 and in note 20 as "disposed of".

One leading shareholder told *The Times*: "These are not precise statements. One starts wondering what else might not be precise."

Mr Defy defended the accounts, saying they were signed off by the auditors on May 15 and Sears only became concerned that Facia may be hitting problems after reports that Mr Hinchliffe may be

investigated by the Department of Trade and Industry, which did not appear until the next weekend.

He said the question of withdrawing or amending the accounts did not arise because the auditors would not have allowed it.

Mr Defy did admit that, on 15 May, Facia owed Sears £5.5 million, of which £800,000 was overdue. This came from the supply contract between the two companies which led to Sears providing much of Facia's management services.

The accounts are for the year to January 31. The sale of Saxone did not take place until February 3. Mr Defy said that including the sale in a year that had ended four days previously was "an accounting convention which everybody understands".

Littlechild puts hitch in Energy flotation

By Christine Buckley

ADVISERS to the £1.5 billion-plus flotation of British Energy may be forced to rewrite the nuclear power operator's pathfinder prospectus just days before its publication after a surprise intervention from the industry regulator.

The prospectus, to be published on Monday, may have to be reworded as lawyers for British Energy determine the implications of Professor Stephen Littlechild's proposal to reduce prices to Scottish consumers and other suppliers.

Professor Littlechild's statement, which calls on Scottish Power and Hydro-Electric to cut electricity prices and ease the entry of newcomers into the Scottish market, has been challenged by the companies. They say his statement means the nuclear energy agreement, which obliges them to buy electricity from Scottish

Nuclear at predetermined prices, must be rewritten. The news comes a day after it emerged that Professor Littlechild will be subjected to a gagging order for four months after the nuclear sale to protect the share price from regulatory moves.

The nuclear energy agreement between Scottish Power, Hydro-Electric and Scottish Nuclear — owned by British Energy — accounts for half of the energy market in Scotland.

Professor Littlechild has ordered a cut in Scottish Power and Hydro-Electric prices. The English and Welsh generators and regional electricity companies have less than 10 per cent of the competitive industrial market, which they blame on the inability to buy electricity cheaply.

Pennington, page 27

Courtaulds Textiles chief forced to quit

By Jon Ashworth



Jervis: "change of leadership"

NOEL JERVIS has been forced to step down as chief executive of Courtaulds Textiles, the clothing and fabric manufacturer which supplies Marks and Spencer. The move, which caught the City unawares, comes after two profits warnings in five months, and could leave Mr Jervis, 51, in line for £500,000 in compensation.

Discussions over Mr Jervis's future came to a head this week. He left the company yesterday, and was not available for comment. His removal was agreed individually with each of the company's directors, and the matter was not put to the vote. His successor is Colin Dyer, 43, who has been responsible for branded and own-label clothing.

John Eccles, chairman, confirmed that Mr Jervis had not left voluntarily, saying: "He has been going along at a great pace, and would have liked to have continued. Captains get changed from time to time. We needed a change of leadership."

Mr Eccles telephoned institutional investors to break the news, which was announced in a terse statement shortly before 4pm. Shares in Courtaulds Textiles closed 1p lower at 378p.

Mr Eccles said: "Life has been tightening up on textile companies and not getting any easier. To have good ideas and good strategies is fine, but you really have to get on with that a bit faster."

Steps to remove Mr Jervis began

early in May, soon after the company gave warning of a "substantial" fall in first-half profits. The shares fell 45p to 373p on the news, which was blamed on difficult trading conditions in America. About 700 UK jobs have been lost since the company issued its first profits warning in December. Courtaulds said strategy would remain unchanged, but the pace of progress would be accelerated.

Mr Jervis had spent 32 years with the company, and was made chief executive in January 1994. He was on a base salary of up to £250,000, fixed on a two-year rolling contract, leaving him eligible for compensation of up to £500,000, on which an announcement will be made in due course.

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CBI criticises 'semi-detached' role of British Government in Europe

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

BUSINESS leaders yesterday attacked the UK's "semi-detached" role in Europe, and insisted that business needed Britain to be at the heart of the European Union.

In a series of strongly pro-European statements, leaders of the Confederation of British Industry vigorously put the case from business for the UK to play a full part in Europe. While some business leaders

maintain that the CBI's strongly pro-European stance does not fully reflect British business opinion — especially small business — CBI leaders attacked the "hostile attitude" to Europe of some politicians and parts of the media.

The CBI is to poll members again on their attitude to Europe, which will be a central feature of its annual conference in Harrogate this year. Niall Fitzgerald, chairman designate of Unilever and chairman of the CBI's Europe

committee, ridiculed claims that Britain would be better off withdrawing, insisting that "careless talk of Britain leaving the EU will cost jobs". He told the launch in London of the CBI's new Business in Europe campaign: "The UK's increasingly semi-detached role in Europe is ironic, because we are winning the debates on competitiveness, on deregulation and the continued opening-up of the single market. There is a grave risk that we will be

sacrificing these hard-won gains as we pander, for cheap cheers, to those who regret the passing of Victorian Britain." Mr Fitzgerald led the CBI's call for an early end to the Government's policy of non-co-operation in Europe. The CBI's statement marked a significant about-turn for the confederation, which two weeks ago was insisting publicly that the Government's policy would not harm business in the UK. Sir Colin Marshall, the CBI's

new president, dismissed it then as a "spat", provoking private concern among CBI leaders that such a response, while supportive of the Government, might not accurately be reflecting the full range of British business views.

But yesterday he recanted publicly, endorsing Mr Fitzgerald's consistent line, and said he was not talking about the past, but looking forward to the future of Europe. Sir David Simon, chairman of BP, fully welcomed the creation of a single currency across Europe, while Sir Iain Vallance, chairman of BT, insisted that Europe was the "home market" not just for BT but for much of British industry.

□ The CBI yesterday published a new statement on Europe in the form of a business agenda for the InterGovernmental Conference, insisting that Europe's competitiveness had to be at the centre of any decisions made about the EU's future.

Repossessions increase as profits soar at Nationwide

By Anne Ashworth

REPOSSESSIONS by Nationwide Building Society rose by 18 per cent in the last financial year, even though the country's fourth-largest mortgage lender enjoyed a 33 per cent rise in pre-tax profits.

Nationwide, one of the few leading building societies to reject a stock market flotation or takeover, and now a staunch defender of mutualism, refused to disclose the number of properties involved, claiming the information was commercially sensitive.

The society's tougher stance on repossessions comes against an improving outlook for house prices. Last week the Nationwide's own monthly survey claimed that prices were at their highest level since December 1991.

Brian Davis, Nationwide's chief executive, explained that many of the loans that had gone bad were made in the late Eighties, before the society moved to make its lending criteria more rigorous. He did not envisage a similar increase in repossessions in the current financial year because rising house prices encourage borrowers to stay in their homes and repay their debts.



Shanks and McEwan's Michael Averill, right, and David Downes saw improved results

Lean spell ends at Shanks & McEwan

By Paul Durman

AN UPBEAT Shanks & McEwan reported a 34 per cent improvement in its annual pre-tax profits, reaching a total of £19.5 million. Michael Averill, chief executive of the waste management group, said he was very pleased with the results after several difficult years.

Much of the advance came from the sale of the loss-making construction business, which was based in Glasgow. Although the group lost £4.4 million on the disposal, the bulk of this was covered by a previously made provision. Before exceptional group profits rose by a more modest 20 per cent.

The main waste business made a profit of £22.1 million (£21.5 million). Mr Averill said the company sacrificed sales, which fell marginally to £95.7 million, to implement "quite aggressive" price rises. It also absorbed £4 million of costs mainly relating to expensive landfill space acquired from Hanson in 1993, and overcame the impact of bad weather.

Rechem, the group's hazardous waste incinerator, has returned to profit, making £418,000 (£388,000 loss) despite a lack of help from Government policy. Mr Averill was encouraged by recent Government proposals on the import and export of waste, but does not expect a new waste disposal regime to be in place for another two years.

Shanks & McEwan, whose finance director is David Downes, expects to be able to pass on to its customers the landfill tax that the Government will impose from October. A final dividend of 2.4p increases the total to 3.6p a share, a 9 per cent increase.

Hillsdown seeks pension fund ruling

HILLSDOWN HOLDINGS, the food group, yesterday sought a High Court ruling that it did not act unlawfully in taking an £18.4 million surplus from the pension fund of a meat processing company taken over by the group 13 years ago. Hillsdown is appealing against a decision by Julian Farrand, the Pensions Ombudsman, that it acted in breach of trust and must repay the money, with interest, to the FMC pension fund.

FMC was taken over by Hillsdown in 1983. In a series of transactions, the assets of the FMC pension scheme were transferred by its trustees to a Hillsdown fund that used £1.5 million to improve the benefits payable to 2,000 FMC pensioners while the surplus of £18.4 million was paid to Hillsdown. The ombudsman intervened after complaints from pensioners, including Robert Burt and Alan Bothwell, who say the money should have gone to scheme members. The appeal hearing, set for three days, continues today.

EU ship subsidy upheld

A EUROPEAN UNION court has dismissed a request by Kahn Scheepvaart BV, a Dutch subsidiary of Jumbo Shipping of Switzerland, to annul a 1994 EU decision to clear a German shipbuilding subsidy scheme. The ruling is a major setback for the Dutch company and other European shipbuilders fighting state aid to the sector in Germany. The European Court of First Instance said the scheme was a general one and that Kahn Scheepvaart, whose main activity is the lifting and carriage by sea of heavy loads, was not individually affected.

ABC to boost ratings

ABC Television Network, which is owned by Walt Disney, is launching a multimillion-dollar marketing plan to restore ABC's ratings in America. Alan Cohen, executive president of ABC Marketing, said Disney would throw its vast marketing weight behind the ABC name, putting the logo into its stores, publications and on licensed products, and put ABC videos in its 14,000 hotel rooms. The network is planning bigger promotions, involving new colours, new music and more stars. "ABC will be everywhere. No network will have the power of Disney. It's a marketing executive's dream," Mr Cohen said.

IRI back in the black

IRI, Italy's state-owned industrial holding company, returned to profit in 1995 after four years of losses, but any joy about improved results was dampened by worries over the firm's debts. IRI reported a 638 billion lire (£267 million) consolidated profit last year after a 364 billion lire loss in 1994. The company has promised the European Union it will drastically cut its debt by the end of the year. But the board said the only way it could do this was by selling its majority stake in Stet, the telecommunications giant, a complex privatisation that ministers say will take time to achieve.

VSEL 'building at loss'

THE first merchant ships to be built at Barrow for 30 years are being constructed at a loss, VSEL, the shipbuilding company, has said in a message to its workers during current pay negotiations. The yard, until recently, was mainly devoted to the construction of nuclear submarines and is diversifying. It is building two double-skinned coastal tankers at a cost of £15 million for a local shipping operator, James Fisher. The experience, the company says, will help it to win further similar orders and it is confident of doing so.

Eastern Group expands

EASTERN GROUP, the regional electricity company owned by Hanson, will become the fourth largest generator at the end of the month after the Government agreed to it buying power stations with an output of 4,000 megawatts from National Power. The agreement is expected to trigger a similar move by PowerGen. Eastern also has an agreement with PowerGen to buy plant with an output of 2,000 megawatts, but the deal has been delayed while the generator has tried to prise guidelines from the industry regulator.

Power bid approved

THE TAKEOVER of Midlands Electricity by General Public Utilities of New Jersey and Cinergy of Ohio has been approved by the Government. The US utilities jumped in to bid for Midlands after Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, blocked a takeover move for the regional electricity company by PowerGen. GPU and Cinergy, which launched a £1.73 billion agreed bid for Midlands last month, yesterday bought more shares in the market to give them a 77 per cent controlling holding of the company.

PowerGen buyback

POWERGEN yesterday completed the share buy-back programme it set in train last month after selling its 21 per cent stake in Midlands Electricity, the regional electricity company. The company then said that it would buy back 10 per cent of its equity and bought 4.8 per cent shortly after announcing its annual results. Yesterday it spent £181 million buying 37.5 million shares. The shares, representing 5.32 per cent of the company's equity, have been cancelled.

Opec delay over Iraq

OPEC oil ministers officially opened their regular half-yearly meeting in Vienna yesterday but adjourned almost immediately until today to allow continued consultations on Iraq's partial return to the oil market. An Opec spokesman announced the adjournment shortly after Algeria's Ammar Mahkoul, the current organization president, read out his opening speech. Opec sources said the postponement reflected differences over how to handle the new situation arising from Iraq's food-for-oil deal with the United Nations.

DTI set to study Fortuna Alliance

By Robert Miller

THE Department of Trade and Industry is expected to launch a formal investigation into Fortuna Alliance, an alleged high-tech global pyramid-selling scheme on the Internet that is believed to have attracted as much as £40 million.

The American Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has already moved to have the operation closed down through the federal courts and has been granted an order temporarily freezing Fortuna's assets and halting the scheme until an application to extend the ban is heard next Monday.

The British authorities' decision to act came after it emerged that UK investors, who have handed over drafts and cheques of between £180 and £1,500 each, have signed up to the scheme, described by

the FTC as "an electronic version of a chain letter".

The Securities and Investments Board, the UK's chief City watchdog, last night said it was "aware of the company". The FTC yesterday said that it believed that Fortuna had taken £4 million from investors, of which a large proportion had been put in a bank in Antigua. It is believed that other funds have been used to buy land, possibly in Central America. One member, however, said that the figure was probably nearer £40 million.

The US watchdog said that it had been contacted by people from as far apart as New Zealand and Canada. Members who sign up to the scheme are told that their initial investment will lead to a monthly profit of £3,000.

British Gas awaits fresh price review

BRITISH GAS is bracing itself today for its second price review in a month when Clare Spottiswoode, the industry regulator, announces the price regime for its domestic gas supply business.

The review will cover British Gas Energy, the part of the company that supplies UK households and which is set to be demerged from TransCo, the pipeline and transport business, next year. A tough review would force the company to cut gas bills and would further cut the company's share price.

Last month Ofgas proposed a review of TransCo's prices, which it said would cut £30 off the average gas bill but which British Gas said would put up to 10,000 jobs at risk. However, the City is expecting the British Gas Energy review will be less severe.

German GDP's three-year low

FROM REUTER IN GERMANY

GERMAN gross domestic product fell by half a percentage point in the first quarter of 1996, its worst performance in three years, the Federal Statistics Office reported yesterday. However, industrial production rose strongly in April, the economics ministry said, reflecting a belief among economists and the Bonn government that recovery is in sight despite two successive weak quarters.

The 0.5 point fall in first-quarter GDP from 1995's fourth quarter was in line with economists' forecasts and past hints from the government. The office revised the fourth quarter figure to unchanged, from a 0.5 per cent fall.

The office's figures are, however, rounded to the nearest half percentage point.

Bundesbank data later showed that GDP fell by 0.4 per cent in the first quarter and by 0.2 per cent in the fourth quarter, meaning that Germany was in recession by the Anglo-Saxon definition. GDP was up by just 0.3 per cent in the first quarter from the same year-earlier period, the weakest rise for two years.

"The primary reason for the weak economic growth in the first quarter was an 11.8 per cent year-on-year fall in construction output, partly caused by the weather," the office said. Construction was down 7.5 per cent quarter-on-quarter.

GDP in west Germany was unchanged in the first quarter, from the fourth, but it fell by 2.5 per cent in the east.

Out of stock, page 29

Strike-free year in coal mining for first time

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S coal mining industry was strike-free for the first time last year, new government figures show today.

Even so, Britain lost 50 per cent more working days through strikes in 1995 in a sharp reverse of falling strike trends.

Ministers will claim the disappearance of strikes in coal mining in its first year in the private sector is a tribute to the Government's policy of privatisation. It has traditionally been one of Britain's most strike-prone industries, but for the first time since official figures began a century ago, official strike data show no working days lost through strikes in coal.

By contrast, the 1984-85 miners' strike caused the loss of 26.4 million working days — three fifths and two fifths respectively of the entire total of strike days in the two years. The end of strikes in coal mining, in the first year since the industry

was privatised in December 1994, marks a significant shift in British industrial relations and the UK's pattern of strikes.

Overall, Britain lost 415,000 working days through strikes in 1995 compared with 278,000 in the previous year, according to the Government's Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Whitehall officials and ministers emphasised that the 1994 strike total was the lowest in the UK's history, and that 1995's figure is still historically low — 16 times lower than the annual average of 6.7 million days over the past 20 years.

The figures come as the Post Office prepares for what could be the first national strike by its staff since 1988. Royal Mail managers and leaders of the Communication Workers Union are expected to meet next week, when the PO will put forward new pay proposals as

part of a pay, productivity and working practices package in an effort to avert industrial action after a ballot result this week showed a 2-1 majority in favour of a strike among voting CWU members.

Statistics record 235 significant strikes in 1995 — again more than the 1994 and 1993 totals of 205 and 211 respectively, but again a great deal less than the average of 614 for the past ten years and 1,234 for the past 20. Twenty stoppages in 1995 accounted for more than 70 per cent of the total number of working days lost through strikes. Though most trade union strength is in manufacturing industry, today's figures show that most strike days were lost in the service sector.

□ Commuter services in London and the South East were hit again yesterday for the third time by strike action over pay by employees of Stagecoach Selkent.



The 1984-85 miners' strike cost 26 million working days

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Boys	Girls
Australia	2.05	1.80	1.80
Austria	17.85	17.85	17.85
Belgium	51.73	47.43	47.43
Canada	2.05	2.05	2.05
Denmark	0.764	0.764	0.764
Finland	5.72	5.72	5.72
France	6.44	6.44	6.44
Germany	2.05	2.05	2.05
Greece	388.00	388.00	388.00
Hong Kong	12.84	11.84	11.84
Ireland	1.02	1.02	1.02
Israel	4.45	4.45	4.45
Japan	250.00	234.00	234.00
Malta	183.20	167.20	167.20
Netherlands	0.596	0.544	0.544
New Zealand	2.05	2.05	2.05
Norway	2.05	2.05	2.05
Portugal	11.85	11.85	11.85
Spain	16.50	16.50	16.50
Switzerland	2.05	2.05	2.05
Turkey	124.00	116.00	116.00
USA	1.548	1.518	1.518

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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□ Lucas faces block on marriage plans □ A rash promise from Yorkshire? □ Nuclear flotation thrown into uncertainty

A brake on break-up bids

□ HOW interesting to see whether those of the great and the good who rallied around Forte when it was assailed by Granada will have similar qualms about seeing one of Britain's most important engineers sold down the river, bought in a flurry of financial engineering and broken up.

Precious few, one suspects, if Lucas Industries goes on the auction block. The irony is twofold. First, the latest move from Granada shows that the Forte empire will not, indeed, have to be broken up. Gerry Robinson has found his way clear to keeping the hotels, rather than selling them back to their previous owner. Granada's bid may have been opportunistic, it may even, with the benefit of hindsight, have been a steal. But it was not a break-up.

The second irony is that Forte was nothing more than a collection of hotels of varying quality and a chain of motorway service stations. No national interest and few exports to protect — but how the City got it in the neck for allowing it to be sold.

This column has marvelled before at the relative lack of attention paid outside the City to the Glaxo-Wellcome merger, value £9 billion, which decided the fate of the biggest player in one of Britain's leading industries, pharmaceuticals, and

allowed a vital research and development resource to be "rationalised". How much less concern will be paid to a mere metal-basher, my dear, worth just £2.6 billion at the highest take-out price now being contemplated by the market.

BBA Group, a little-known but expansion-minded engineer, was, shall we put it thus, steering the market towards the idea that it had no interest in bidding for Lucas after the later agreed a merger with Varsity of the US late last week. Not so, yesterday BBA was forced to admit an interest, and a bid can be expected shortly if the financing is available.

Criticism has been levelled at the Varsity link. George Simpson, the departing Lucas chief executive, has been accused of being too keen to stitch up a deal, any deal, before he goes on to the more prestigious GEC. But the link looks a sight more attractive than the sort of piratical break-up that could frustrate it. The customers, the big carmakers, certainly approve of the creation of a second world force to rival Bosch of Germany.

By contrast BBA, for example,

half Lucas's size, would be under pressure to sell chunks of the business after a successful bid. Likewise a German buyer such as Mannesmann, if one emerges in addition, would have no reason to keep, say, aerospace. The Varsity alliance will take until September to complete, giving any third party plenty of time to derail it.

At the end of the day, City institutions offered £3 a share in a break-up bid will rush to accept, rather than hold Lucas shares valued at 245p once the Varsity terms were announced. One can only hope fund managers have their excuses ready.

Customers take second place

□ IN THE book of unfortunate business quotations — Norman Lamont's green shoots of recovery, Robert Maxwell's one-eyed Albanian who could see the merit of Mirror Group, even Alan Bond's conviction that he and only he could run Lunn — Yorkshire Water has already earned one entry. That came



when Trevor Newton, former managing director, revealed that his malodorous contribution to last summer's drought was to avoid taking a bath.

Now Brandon Gough, Yorkshire's chairman, is going for a second entry. Asked why a sharp rebate to his frazzled customers should not accompany the share buyback bonanza for shareholders that he is preparing, Mr Gough insisted: "We are giving a very substantial benefit to customers now."

The burghers of West Yorkshire should remember that phrase. They were the ones who suffered last summer, and the new management is claiming that things will be different this year. Mr Gough's remarkable optimism

might one day come back to haunt him, just as surely as did Mr Lamont's. He and his new board still have much to prove.

Whatever. The clear implication yesterday was that Yorkshire is now focusing on shareholder value rather than the customer. The £12 million extra being spent this year on preventing leakage looks insignificant by contrast with the £47 million cost of tankering water about the county last summer. But both are dwarfed by the £140 million Yorkshire is prepared to spend on buying back a tenth of its share capital.

It takes real brass neck, as its customers might put it, for Yorkshire to trumpet those latest reductions in bills they are facing. These were forced on the company by a highly critical regulator earlier this week as a punishment for earlier misdeeds. Meanwhile even the City was surprised at the level of dividend Yorkshire was prepared to pay. The implication of this, and of the share buyback and the 30 to 40 per cent gearing the board is happy with as a result, is that the money must be

unloaded before Ian Byatt or any successor to him does any more damage. He should take this as his cue, and do just that.

Man with beard strikes again

□ HOW the Treasury's advisers must have hugged themselves as they imposed a gagging order on Stephen Littlechild and safeguarded the British Energy float. No more thunderbolts from the man with the beard this time. No repetition of the last-minute intervention that made such a shambles of last spring's National Power and PowerGen share issue.

Oh dear. The Professor has got his retaliation in first. His proposals to ScottishPower and Scottish Hydro, after the two had been caught with their fingers in the cookie jar, have enormous implications for British Energy. The problem is that those implications are a long way from clear, and will not become any clearer before the nuclear issue is priced and away.

First, it is hard to see how any

gag could have worked. Regulators are required to regulate, and any change in the market for power would have required appropriate action from Professor Littlechild no matter what promises he had made covering the first three months of British Energy's stock market life.

Second, requiring the Scots to squeeze down on prices is a strong hint that similar action, by means of another price cap, might be planned in England and Wales. Perhaps the Professor might wait the necessary three months, perhaps not. But the price of electricity, both north and south of Hadrian's Wall, is one of two main variables that will influence British Energy's future performance. This will have to be reflected, somehow, in Monday's prospectus.

Five-year plan

□ THOSE building societies becoming banks, once they reach the market, will be protected from predators for five years. The Nationwide, keen to remain a mutual society, would like to see this five-year rule abolished. A desire for a level playing field? Or does the Nationwide suspect that, once the Halifax converts, the newly fledged bank will go after a big acquisition? Does the Nationwide want some obstacles in the path of its larger rival?

Racal to take £20m charge in datacoms

By PAUL DURMAN

RACAL Electronics has pledged to return its data products business to profit in two years' time, but only after bearing £20 million of reorganisation costs.

The reorganisation, spearheaded by Paul Kozlowski, chairman of Racal's data communications division since last June, will include the closure of a Warrington factory which employs 180 people. Manufacturing will be moved to Florida. Mr Kozlowski is also cutting out layers of management and appointing some executives with whom he has worked in the past.

Data products — equipment that provides access to computer networks — are estimated by analysts to have cost Racal £15 million to £25 million of losses last year.

Sir Ernest Harrison, chairman, said Racal's board had given Mr Kozlowski the "green light" to make the fundamental changes he recommended after completing a strategic review. Sir Ernest praised Mr Kozlowski's expertise and track

record in the datacoms industry.

Racal was reporting annual pre-tax profits 21 per cent ahead at £70.4 million for the year to March 31. In spite of the £20 million exceptional cost, Racal said it will increase its profits again this year.

Sir Ernest said: "The underlying performance is very powerful. We are looking forward to 1997-98."

Data communications, the biggest division with sales last year of £429 million, also includes the group's interests in network services, Camelot (the National Lottery operator) and the recently acquired BR Telecommunications. Together, these made a profit of £21.2 million (£14.3 million).

The acquisition of BR Telecommunications has sharply increased borrowings to 75 per cent of shareholders.

The company is paying a 3.9p final dividend, increasing the total payout by 20 per cent to 6p a share.

Tempus, page 28

Cooklin survives 'no' vote

INVESTORS at Signet's annual meeting yesterday voted against the re-election of Laurence Cooklin, as managing director of the financially strapped jewellery group (Paul Durman writes).

Although the vote was overwhelmingly overturned by proxy votes pledged by investing institutions, the protest indicates private investors' heightened awareness of corporate governance issues.

Shareholders at the meeting opposed the re-election of Mr Cooklin, paid £355,000 last year, because of his two-year contract. This is in defiance of corporate governance best practice, as defined by the Greenbury guidelines.

Signet said Mr Cooklin was given a two-year contract to secure his appointment.

Julian Treger, of the UK Active Value Fund, said the opposition was "a good sign that the ordinary shareholder, the man in the street, is becoming more active".

Battle for Allders intensifies

THE battle for the Allders duty-free airport shops yesterday developed into a bidding war. BAA matched Swissair's offer of £145 million only to be overtaken by a new Swiss offer of £160 million (Oliver August writes).

Allders shares rose 16p to 215p on the news. In response to the increased offer from Swissair, BAA declared that it would not raise its offer any further. The £145 million bid will go to an extraordinary meeting on Monday.

Both parties are still £15 million apart in their bids. The takeover battle started with a £130 million offer by BAA. The Allders board agreed to the sale, but was then confronted by the first Swissair bid of £145 million.

When the board seemed to ignore this bid, Swissair wrote to Allders shareholders, urging them to reject BAA's offer. This prompted the raised BAA offer. BAA shares closed 4p down at 486p.

Profits at Hambros fall 44% on charges

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

PROFITS at Hambros, the independent merchant bank, fell 44.5 per cent to £20.6 million in the year to March 31 after a higher than expected £36.2 million provision for bad debts and exceptional charges of £12.9 million.

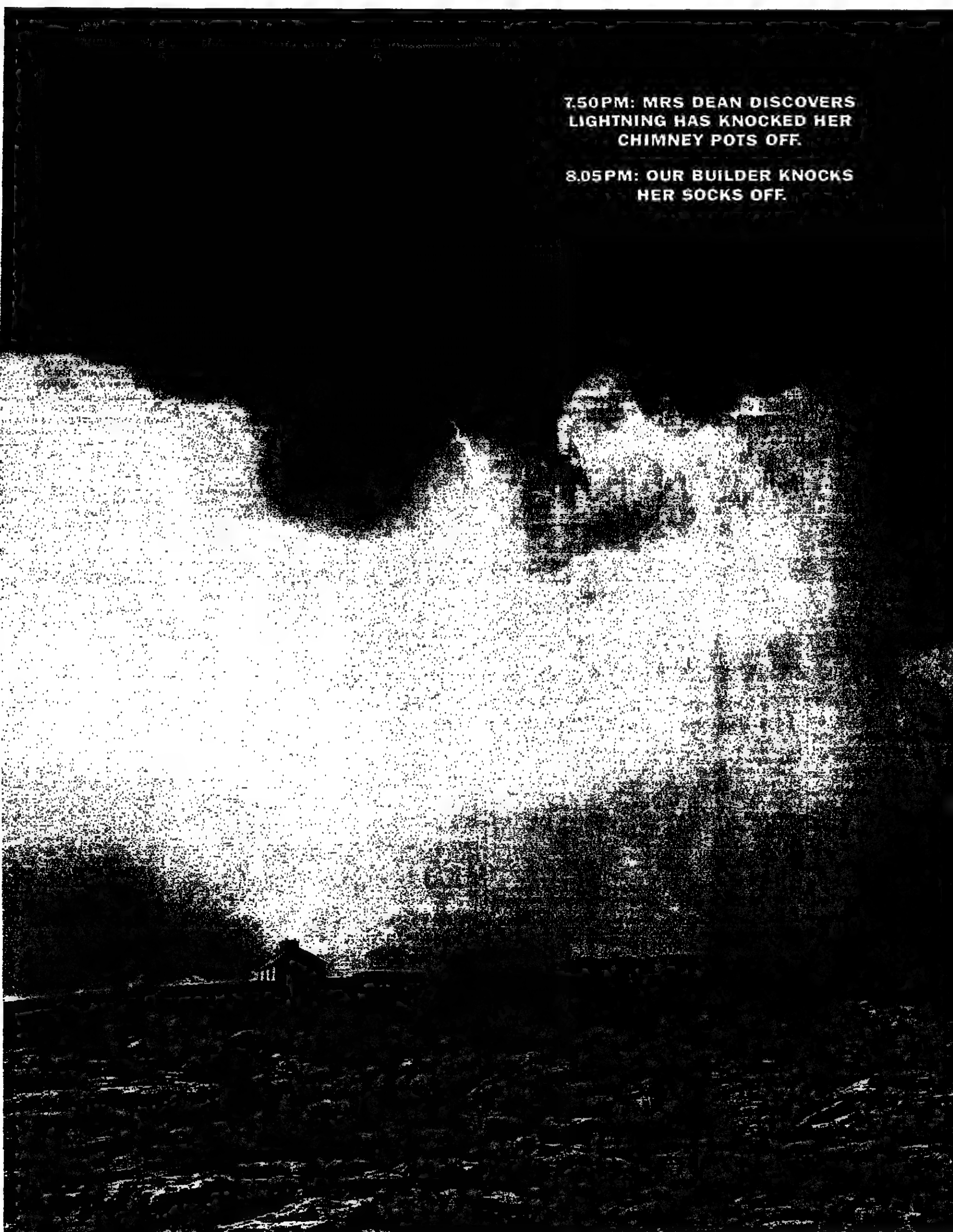
The exceptional charges include losses on the sale of Hambro Clearing and Hambros's Australian stockbroking operation, and a charge for restructuring. The bank's workforce was reduced from 2,000 to 1,600 during the year, including 100 redundancies, and another 100 are likely to go over the next 12

to 18 months. Despite a 3p fall in the share price to 227p, most analysts were forecasting higher profits this year.

Sir Chips Keswick, Hambros's chief executive, said the level of provisions was high last year because the bank recognised its bad debts later in the economic cycle than some competitors.

The dividend for the year has been held at 7.5p with the final payment of 5p due on August 19 in spite of a loss per share of 7.6p (earnings of 4p).

Tempus, page 28



7.50PM: MRS DEAN DISCOVERS LIGHTNING HAS KNocked HER CHIMNEY POTS OFF.

8.05PM: OUR BUILDER KNOCKS HER SOCKS OFF.

Who says lightning never strikes the same place twice? Earlier last year a builder retained by Guardian Direct performed a spirited impression of grease lightning when he arrived at a cottage, which had been damaged in a thunderstorm, only fifteen minutes after the incident was reported.

The amazed owners, who had only signed up with us five days earlier, were delighted when we agreed their claim on the spot, paying all the bills direct. Proof, if proof were needed, that we'll always try to settle your claim in a flash. BETTER INSURANCE FOR THE WORLDLY WISE

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Lucas soars again as bid prospects grow stronger

THE City is bracing itself for a second round of bidding for Lucas Industries. Lucas climbed 8p to 254p as more than 18 million shares changed hands after BBA confirmed it was considering the possibility of a spoiling bid. Now it looks as if another bidder is ready to swoop. Names in the frame include GKN, down 3p at 977p, TI Group, 3p easier at 524p, or BTR, up 1p at 278p. But BBA's proposal was given the thumbs down by both Lucas and the City. A spokesman for Lucas said there was no meaningful industrial case for a merger with BBA. Only last week Lucas announced plans for a merger with Vario in the US which would create a £3.2 billion automotive parts company.

Zafar Khan, at Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull, reckons a paper offer from BBA would result in considerable dilution, while a cash offer would "obliterate" its balance sheet. Brokers generally take the view BBA does not have the financial muscle to launch such a bid for Lucas. Share prices generally staged a lacklustre performance with investors unwilling to commit themselves ahead of tomorrow's US employment numbers. Claims that one major company was poised to ask shareholders to dig deep into their pockets helped to subside demand. The monthly get-together between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, offered little evidence to suggest another cut in interest rates. The FT-SE 100 index finished just 1.8 down at 3,753.4 having traded in narrow limits for much of the day.

Turnover was also depressed with 760 million shares traded, but this was swollen by the PowerGen buy-back that accounted for almost 80 million of the total. PowerGen finished 3p easier at 485p.

The high street banks continued to be chased higher. Barclays led the way with a rise of 7.5p to 781.5p as speculators again pinned their hopes on the group floating off its BZW securities arm. There is also growing that the group may become more generous towards dividend payments after a speech by Andrew Buxton, the chairman, in Australia. Other banks to go better included



Presenter Chris Tarrant still raised a smile for investors in Capital Radio, even though the shares slipped back 1p

National Westminster, 8p to 630p, HSBC, 4p to 983p, and Lloyds TSB, 4p to 323p.

Tesco was tipped as a chart buy and the price responded with a rise of 8p to 313.5p.

Elsewhere on the bid front, Alders, the department store group, advanced 16p to 215p as the battle for control intensified. Just hours after BAA Group, the airport operator,

finished 4p cheaper at 486p. News of a bid approach lifted Blenheim Group, the exhibition specialist, 70p to 409p, stretching the company's lead of the past two days to 97p. The approach is likely to be warmly received by fund managers after the upheaval at the group during the past couple of years.

Capital Radio eased 1p to

Morgan Crucible stood out with a rise of 15p to 447p ahead of tomorrow's annual meeting. Credit Lyonnais Laid says the premium to the rest of the sector remains modest. Margins are improving and with investors looking for defensive earnings in the capital goods sector. Laid expects the steady re-rating to continue.

had put an offer of £145 million on the table. In came Swissair with a bid valued at £160 million.

BAA made its move after learning that Swissair was ready to petition the Alders shareholders about its initial offer. They will now be asked to choose between the two offers at an extraordinary meeting in a few days. BAA

696p. IP Group, its biggest shareholder, plans to sell part of its 21 per cent holding with the sale of 13.8 million shares, or 17 per cent of the company. Goldman Sachs and Cazenove have been asked to find buyers for the shares. IP Group will continue to hold 6.9 million shares.

There was an audible sigh of relief at Midlands Electric



ity as the shares 17p rose to 442p after the Government gave the green light to Avon Energy's proposed £1.7 billion bid. It had been feared that the bid would be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Courtaulds Textiles finished 1p cheaper at 378p after the sacking of Noel Jarvis as chief executive. He will be replaced by Colin Dyer. His departure comes hard on the heels of a profits warning issued at the annual meeting on May 1. The group said that profits would be "substantial" down on last year because of continuing destocking in the US.

Drought-ridden Yorkshire Water tumbled 16p to 718p after telling the City it will not be initiating its proposed share buy-back programme. Earlier in the morning it had angered consumers by coming in with full-year figures at the top end of expectations and reporting a bigger than expected rise in the dividend. Pre-tax profits grew £20 million to £162 million while the payout jumped 12.5 per cent. A rise of less than 10 per cent had been anticipated in the wake of a difficult year that saw customers' services interrupted and the company came under fire from the regulator.

Full-year figures from Rascal Electronics failed to impress brokers and left the shares nursing a fall of 16p to 304p. The profits were dented by the £20 million cost of reorganising part of the business and the delay in completing several contracts. Brokers said that without the contribution from Camelot, profits would have been lower. GILT-EDGED: Brokers reported selective support at the shorter end resulting in a slight steepening of the yield curve. In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt future fell 1/8 to £105.32 in nervous trading that saw turnover slip to 30,000 contracts.

In longs, Treasury 3 per cent 2015 finished 1/8 lower at 87 1/8, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was just a couple of ticks easier at 102 1/4.

NEW YORK: Stocks were flat in early trading, with investors cautiously sticking to the sidelines ahead of tomorrow's employment report. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 0.37 points at 5,666.08.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5666.08 (+0.37)
S&P Composite 672.96 (+0.49)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 2181.17 (+23.31)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 11092.51 (+5.60)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 5704.99 (+2.08)

Sydney:
AO 2229.7 (+6.3)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2552.53 (+6.28)

Singapore:
Bris 2336.81 (+8.04)

Brussels:
General 9442.80 (+4.89)

Paris:
CAC-40 2115.35 (+4.35)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 779.70 (+1.33)

London:
FT 30 2792.4 (+0.7)
FT 100 3753.4 (+1.8)
FTSE Mid 250 4760.0 (+16.9)
FTSE 250 1999.2 (+2.3)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 1684.32 (+3.07)
FT All-Share 1885.49 (+1.60)
FT Non Financials 2005.41 (+3.08)
FT Financials 1111.92 (+0.17)
FT Govt Secs 92.30 (+0.10)
Barrings 3000
SEI 700.00
US\$ (Dollars) 211.52 (+0.14)
US\$ 1.5407 (+0.0018)
German Mark 2.3603 (+0.0054)
Exchange Index 94.1 (+0.1)
Bank of England official cash rate 1.25%
ESCU 1.2074
RPI 152.6 Apr (2.4%) Jan 1987-100
RPIX 152.0 Apr (2.9%) Jan 1987-100

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RECENT ISSUES

TEMPUS

Back to the future

RACAL ELECTRONICS is investing a lot of faith in Paul Kozlowski, the American who joined last year as head of the troublesome data communications arm. Unfortunately for someone in communications, Mr Kozlowski talks at length but conveys little information. Never mind, he has an impressive record in the US datacoms industry and he has pledged to return Racal's data business to profit by 1997/98. It loses an annual £15-25 million.

Mr Kozlowski has started with a reorganisation, trimming management and consolidating all manufacturing in Florida. This will cost about £20 million this year. But Racal is up against tough competitors and if Mr Kozlowski meets his target, chairman Sir Ernest Harrison will have good cause to be as grateful as he seemed yesterday.

Elsewhere, Racal has some great opportu-

nities but the biggest hopes seem to have slipped into the future. A Ministry of Defence decision on the £2.4 billion arm contract to supply the Bowman radio system has been postponed until September 1998.

The BR Telecommunications business, bought last December, made an impressive debut contribution of £12.8 million. Although Racal was at pains to stress this was exceptional, the network run by the renamed Racal-BRT has lost of spare capacity that is proving attractive. The £15.3 million profit from Racal's stake in lottery company Camelot was also more than useful.

Racal's shares yesterday fell 16p to 304p. With this year's profit forecasts being trimmed back to £74 million, they may have further to fall. But on a three year view, Racal looks much more attractive.

Blenheim

THE art of good corporate finance, like good comedy, is timing. If United MAI does make a £500 million bid for Blenheim Group, the City is bound to wonder if the bid has come a year too late, leaving United paying £200 million too much.

In early 1994, following a series of profits warnings, Blenheim shares stood at 174p, having fallen from a high of more than 600p. Less than a year ago they stood at 200p. Yesterday they jumped from 339p to 409p, and Neville Buch, Blenheim's chairman, does not want to agree to a deal at less than 500p.

Of course, United could make an aggressive bid, and see what assets there are at Blenheim walk out the door. But there is a risk that could happen anyway as the

French and US directors

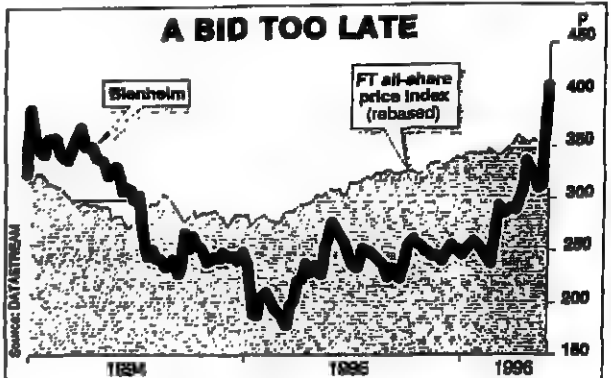
cash in their shares. The argument against bidding 18 months ago was that Blenheim was such a mess it could have fallen apart. Its present shape is a tribute to Mr Buch and Stefan Svenby, the managing director.

The company is still not out of the woods. The US businesses are facing tough

competition from Ziff Davis

and the French side by Reed Elsevier, which is run by ex-Blenheim people.

But recent deals in the industry, as shown by the sale of the Ziff Davis computer shows, are at around three times revenues. That would indicate United could pay £600 million, or 600p a share, and still be smiling.



Hambros

DESPITE the market's obvious disappointment over the performance of the Hambros banking business in the year to March 31, the 3p fall in its share price to 227p is a little surprising.

The book value of the Hambros net asset value per share may have fallen from 196p to 180p, but at market value there is an increase from 214p to 231p. Take into account the £40 million unrealised gains on the investment portfolio and a net asset value of 271p is achieved without taking into account any sort of premium on its banking operations.

Its listed subsidiaries, Hambros Countrywide and Hambros Insurance Services, are performing well, and the new strategic direction of the group, established at the end of last year, demonstrated that these are no longer seen as core businesses.

SBC Warburg is looking for pre-tax profits of £75

million in the current year

and earnings per share of 15.5p. This puts the shares on a multiple of 14.4 times. Despite the bank's protestations that it is not for sale, this all makes Hambros look attractive from a speculative point of view - it could be a marvellous break-up.

Jarvis Hotels

IT IS second time lucky for Jarvis Hotels. The company pulled out of a planned flotation last year, unhappy with the stock market rating it could command. Now the hotel market is booming and the City is only too keen to welcome new hotel groups.

Two pure hotel groups, Millennium and Copthorne and MacDonald Hotels, have already made a successful debut this year, and there is no reason to believe Jarvis will ruin the clean-cut image of the new boys. It is run by management with lengthy experience in hotels. Jarvis is also keen to emphasise that

the company is not into

Queens Moat-style over-expansion. The aim is to grow through individual hotel purchases from modest debt and cash resources and avoid further cash calls.

There also appears to be plenty of room for trading improvement. Occupancy levels are 64 per cent, partially depressed by new acquisitions. It is also confident of forcing through further price rises, after a £3 a room rise last year. With more than a million rooms sold over the course of the year, any price rise has a significant profit uplift.

Not surprisingly Jarvis is not coming to the market cheap. At an anticipated float price of around 160p, the company is sitting on an historic price earnings ratio of 16 times.

However, the sector average is around 21 times so the share price should have some room for growth. Jarvis may not be a bargain but investors will find a solid home.

THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

For APR read April

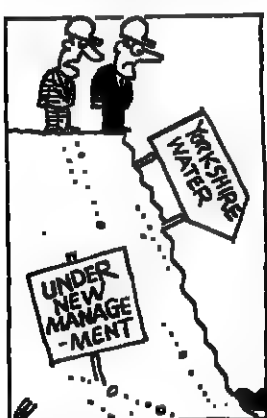
NEVER mind customer loyalty, what about your family? In a desperate bid for laughs, Brian Davis, chief executive at the Nationwide, turned on his wife yesterday at the building society's conference. Davis's rippling yarn involved taking home his wife a society circular, to make sure it was written in "plain English". The wheeze was working well, apparently, until Mrs Davis, focusing on the acronym APR, asked if there was any particular reason for announcing mortgage rates in April.

'Welcome' slip

SHAME on Railtrack — the latest high-profile perpetrator of the misplaced apostrophe. The company that splashed out on a giant "welcome mat" to greet passengers arriving at Leeds City Station, has made a spelling gaff. The company's marketing department chose the wording: "Railtrack Welcomes You to Leeds City Station." Unfortunately, it inserted an apostrophe after the "e" in welcomes. If that wasn't bad enough, a Railtrack spokesman lost his rag when dealing with a query from a local radio station. He bit back: "It's a simple spelling mistake. What do you want us to do? Take the offender to City Square and have them hung, drawn and quartered?" The mat has since been removed.

First aid

FOR the first time in its conference history, Inchcape's medical expenses have outstripped the company's bar bill. Sir Colin Marshall, chairman, was the first to call on an emergency masseuse after he strained his back playing tennis at the four-day conference in Macao. Out of the top 80 managers present, one jogged into a tree, another is on crutches after stubbing his toe, and a delegate's leg has turned septic after she was bitten by a bug. The fifth casualty was sent to hospital yesterday after slipping by the side of the swimming pool.



"We hope to make our water levels match our profit levels"

By order

SO ADEPT has Yorkshire Water become at managing a crisis, the company is now making a virtue out of its failings. Proclaiming its highly controversial profit figures yesterday, Yorkshire Water handouts highlighted lower than expected price increases for customers next year. Not that the welcome move was anything to do with the company itself. What Yorkshire Water was in fact drawing reference to was the punishment wielded by the regulator against the company for its hopeless performance last year.

A SURREAL promotional video for Mondex, the electronic purse that could make notes and coins a thing of the past. Set to an upbeat score, the first scene opens in San Francisco, focusing on Californians spending their electronic money and the mighty Wells Fargo bank. Then, just as the tension is mounting, the camera pans to "Swindon, England."

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW

JANET BUSH



Brainstorming time for the man who must deliver

The Chancellor reviews policy options against a contentious debate on the economy

The Chancellor holds the annual away-day for Treasury officials at his country residence of Dorneywood around now. The Treasury seems, rather bizarrely, to have adopted a new tradition of pre-Dorneywood purdah to add to the pre-Budget sort and won't say when the meeting is.

But this is the time of the year that the Chancellor and officials hold a brainstorming session to take stock of the economy. It is a key juncture in the economic calendar. The first Cabinet meeting to discuss the public spending round will be held within weeks. July 9 sees the publication of the Treasury's *Summer Forecast*, a document that provides the broad economic judgments that will be the background to the Budget.

This one is as difficult to call as any over the past decade, with manufacturing near recession but consumer sectors strengthening. In its May *Inflation Report*, the Bank of England gave a warning about the hazards of navigating a sensible path through such opposing currents. "It was precisely at this juncture — with apparent short-term weakness in some sectors masking signs of more buoyant future activity — that policy mistakes tended to be made in the past."

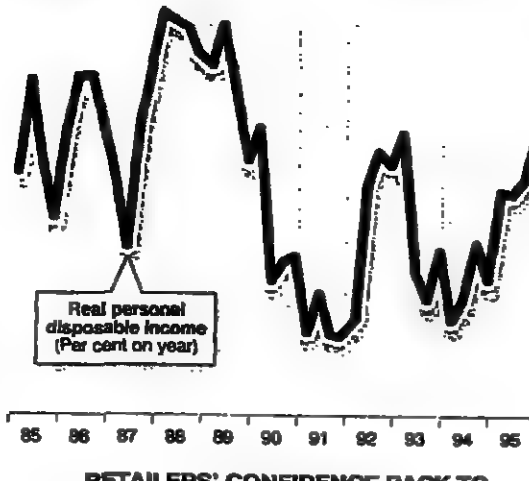
Comparisons with 1986 are becoming the rage because this was when the Government inadvertently stoked up the 1980s inflationary boom and bust. Late in 1985, manufacturing output was falling at an annual rate of about 3 per cent. By autumn, 1986, output was expanding at an annual rate of around 4 per cent. Armed with CBI surveys in the first half of 1986 that showed orders and output falling and unwanted stocks still building up, the Government cut taxes and interest rates and let sterling plunge. So the late 1980s boom and bust was born.

A decade later, the inflation warriors are in the ascendant, paranoid in case the economic runes are misinterpreted again. It has to be said at this point that current visions of disaster are hardly dramatic compared with the garish economic landscapes of the past. Richard Jeffrey, chief economist of The Charterhouse Group, is one of the most hawkish in the City on inflation, seeing it rise, perhaps, to as high as 4 per cent.

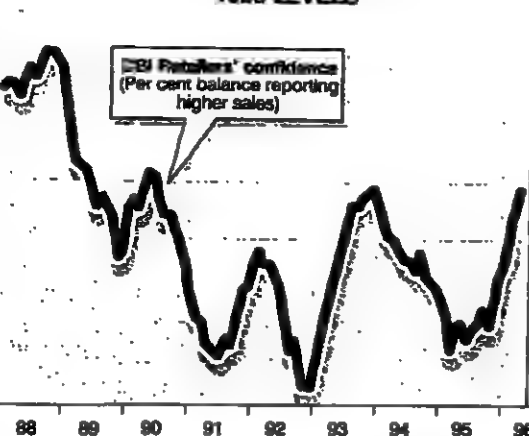
He sees the economy powered ahead ever more strongly by consumer spending as people feel the benefits from lower interest rates, tax cuts, windfalls from building societies and electricity com-

TALE OF TWO ECONOMIES

RIISING INCOMES SHOULD BOOST SPENDING



RETAILERS' CONFIDENCE BACK TO 1990 LEVELS



panies. CBI surveys of retailers' confidence shows confidence back to pre-recession levels. Also broadly in this camp is David Mackie, of JP Morgan, who believes that the economy could be growing at a rate of 3 to 3.5 per cent by the end of this year, powered by consumption. He is surprised at what he feels is complacency in the Bank of England.

The Bank has emphasised the risks of manufacturing falling into a more prolonged slump as an important factor weighing against consumer strength. The two negatives are the huge stocks build-up and the slowdown in European economies, particularly Germany. Mr Mackie believes both negatives are overdone. He is suspicious of CBI survey evidence that there has been virtually no run-down in stock levels so far. He believes that the worst for European economies and British exporters is already past.

Few disagree that the British consumer is staging a comeback after the years of hunkering. Where disagreements arise is over the inflation warrior's assumption that (a) there is no measurable chance that the current troubles in manufacturing will have a knock-on effect on confidence and that (b) more consumer spending will inevitably lead to higher prices.

Roger Bootle and Ian Shepherdson, of HSBC Markets, are forecasting consumer spending of 3 per cent this year and 4 per cent next year, not very different from the inflation warriors. Their forecast for overall growth at 2 per cent is not that much out of line with others either. But they

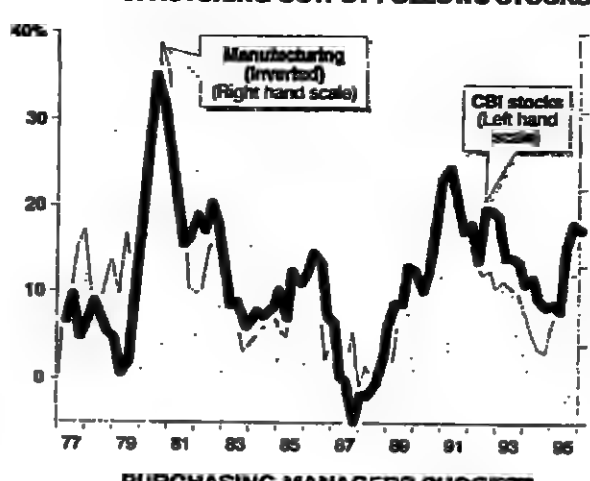
still believe that interest rates may have to be cut again.

They argue that, while manufacturing does not look like it is going into a tail-spin, there is at least a risk that the stagnation could be prolonged, that companies will lay off staff and that consumer confidence will take another knock. Stocks and output have tended to move in close tandem and current readings point to a protracted slump in the latter. The purchasing managers' survey earlier this week was very weak and ominously showed a sharp deterioration in firms' employment intentions, suggesting a wave of lay-offs is on the way.

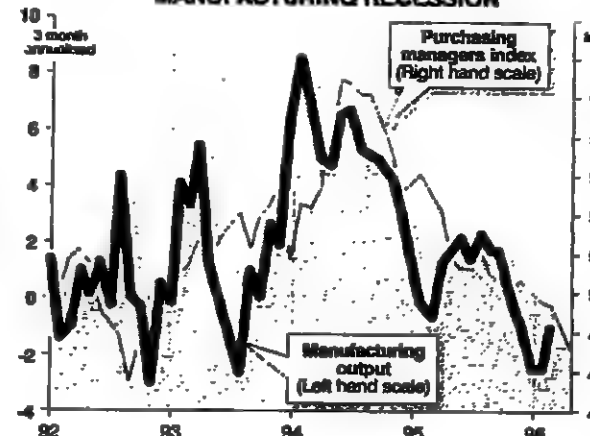
But whether or not manufacturing impinges on consumers' confidence, there is another argument against alarmism on interest rates. Can we be sure that a bit more consumer spending will lead to higher retail prices? Current survey evidence suggests producer prices are going to be very low over the year ahead. Why should retailers risk annoying consumers by jacking up prices when their suppliers are keeping theirs low?

These opposing views partly come down to whether or not one believes the world has changed, that we have entered an era of low inflation, that structural changes to the British economy, particularly those that have created a "flexible" labour market — have changed the equation between unemployment and inflation for good. Until now, inflation warriors could argue that inflation has remained relatively low because the con-

MANUFACTURING OUTPUT FOLLOWS STOCKS



PURCHASING MANAGERS SUGGEST MANUFACTURING RECESSION



sumer has been battered down by higher taxes, interest rates, their 1980s credit card and housing debt, and lack of income growth. What will happen over the next three to six months now that the background is positive for consumption for the first time since before the recession? We are entering a fascinating laboratory measuring whether the present is different from the past. Will more spending lead to higher prices or not? As unemployment falls, will wage inflation take off or not?

Where does this leave the Chancellor? We know from his interview in *The Times* last week that he is still pretty confident that growth will accelerate, if not reach his 3 per cent forecast for calendar 1996; that he is prepared to raise interest rates before the election if necessary; that he has problems on tax revenues and public spending and is playing down hopes of tax cuts; that he wants to fight the election on the economy and leave the poll to the last minute to allow a bit of prosperity to feed through.

In policy terms, he is almost bound to take an optimistic view. The year before an election is no time for a responsible Chancellor to panic and there is little reason for him to do so. Inflation is not about to explode and, in any case, any problem will come in 1997 when Gordon Brown may be left to tackle it. Helpfully, the Bank appears to be reasonably open-minded on rates for now — perhaps because it made the mistake of being hawkish last year when the economy was weakening and doesn't want to wreck its

Why Germany is running out of steam

Oliver August on Bonn's near-miss with the statistic that spells recession

She took off vertically, climbing with grace and strength, displaying precision planning and German engineering, apparently shaming all those who had derided the value of European co-operation.

But just as she was about to break free from gravity, she burst into flames and disintegrated. This is not Ariane 5, the ill-fated European space rocket. This week's other lemur is the German economy. By the narrowest of margins, Germany avoided being officially in recession.

The criterion is negative growth for two consecutive quarters. In March, the statistical office in Wiesbaden reported a 0.5 per cent GDP slowdown, and it did so again yesterday for the first quarter of this year.

However, the Wiesbaden umpires also revised the March figures to zero GDP growth yesterday. The ball is not over the line, they ruled. Germany is not in recession.

Such tiny adjustments to the data are, however, meaningless. The truth of the matter is that Germany's economy is in trouble. Again.

The euphoria of unification was followed by realisation that even another economic miracle would not turn the east into "blooming lands", as Helmut Kohl had promised. In 1993, there was talk of the French franc replacing the mark as Europe's currency anchor. The mark has since recovered, but uncertainty over *Model Deutschland* has returned.

Herr Kohl's problem is not whether the economy is in recession this quarter or not. The real problem is that Germany's version of the "social market economy" is breaking down — and deserves to because it makes Germany uncompetitive. Yesterday's growth figures are the clearest sign yet that Germany must bend over backwards to stay Europe's *Musterschüler*, or top pupil. Most economies in Germany's class are growing, not dipping into recession.

Why is Germany lagging? The statisticians in Wiesbaden timidly point to a cold spell in the last quarter. Apparently, construction investment was down because

of it, keeping overpaid brickies at home. Maybe former British Rail managers have joined Germany's statistics office to issue statements such as: "The first-quarter results from Wiesbaden will be 0.5 per cent down because of the wrong kind of snow-leaves/sunshine".

The real reason for Germany's slow growth is not weather, but its high wages, its inflexible industrial legislation and its boundless welfare spending.

After months of procrastination, Herr Kohl unveiled a £22 billion savings package six weeks ago. It includes tougher rules on dole payments, a one-year freeze on social welfare hand-outs, reduction of sick leave, a higher retirement age and bigger fees for medicine.

Yet Herr Kohl failed to convince his country that austerity was the order of the day. Instead, he tried to sell the package by saying that it was not an "attack on the social welfare state".

Such an attack is just what Germany needs. But even 50 years after the catastrophic experience of the Nazi era, talk of unshaking animal spirits — though only in a quest for economic growth rather than *Lebensraum* — is taboo.

Until Germans have shed that worry, all reform packages will be in vain. Even Herr Kohl's relatively modest chopping list looks likely to be shelved because of public opposition. Trade unions are already organising disruptive "warning strikes". Such industrial action will be a warning not only to Herr Kohl in Bonn, but to his European colleagues in Brussels.

Germany's burgeoning welfare spending bodes ill for Herr Kohl's pet project, European monetary union. If he fails to curb spending and sees tax revenue decline further, Germany will not meet the budget deficit criterion in the Maastricht treaty.

For Euro-watchers on this side of the Channel, that is the real significance of Germany's weather-beaten growth figures. With any luck, Germany will miss the Maastricht boat because of snow.

Regional press consolidating around true-to-type publishers

Fred Johnston is the type one would expect to be selling his stake in the regional newspaper industry. His ancestors founded Johnston Press more than 200 years ago and his family holds more than 40 per cent of the shares.

This is the sort of business that was commonly bought by the likes of Emap, one of the acquisitive breed of media groups that specialised in persuading small, independent publishers to part with their family's inheritance.

But this week the tables were turned. Mr Johnston — whose fellow directors light-heartedly allude to his ability to charm widows — smooth-talked Emap into selling the business on which it was built.

Mr Johnston's time as chairman has seen the Scottish group forsake its Falkirk roots for Edinburgh, expand operations south of the border, and add a clutch of daily titles to its stable of free and paid-for weeklies. The Emap deal will make Johnston Press the fifth-largest regional newspaper publisher by circulation.

And, yet, although the deal

may appear to go against the grain, in another respect it is following a more recent trend — the sale by diversified media groups of their regional newspaper interests to publishers dedicated to the sector.

Last year the Thomson Corporation sold the majority of its UK newspapers to Trinity International. Reed International's regional titles were sold to Newsquest, a management buy-out team. Midland Independent Newspapers, another leading player, also started life as an MBO team with Ingersoll's Birmingham and Coventry titles, and is first and foremost a local newspaper publisher.

If the trend continues, three groups are worth watching: the Northcliffe division of Daily

Mail & General Trust; United Provincial Newspapers (UPN), part of United News & Media; and Pearson's Westminster Press (WP).

Many of the larger media groups are looking to the attractive returns promised by electronic publishing and databases, radio, television and business and consumer publishing. Emap, for example, is a market leader in consumer magazines, and is using its know-how and acquisitive skills to replicate this success in France. It is also generating rapid

growth in radio. Meg Geldens, media analyst at Goldman Sachs, would not be surprised to see UPN sold after the merger of MAI and United News. Along with WP, its circulation is among the fastest

fallers in the industry, symptomatic of underinvestment. She said: "You have to be very focused. If you're not going to go for it, you should get out. It was very good Emap got out."

Anthony de Larrinaga, media analyst at Parature Gordon, believes the industry will consolidate around a small core of leading players. Northcliffe is the only one not part of a broader media group.

UPN has relaunched its titles and may seek swaps to give it a geographic mix more conducive to increased margins, otherwise, Mr de Larrinaga believes, the group may be sold. "WP is definitely on the block," he said, pointing to the considerable cost savings made in the past year but rapid readership erosion.

Frank Barlow, Pearson's chief executive, has said that WP definitely is not for sale. But, as Mr de Larrinaga said: "Emap kept saying 'no, no'." Newsquest is tipped by some as hungry to expand. Or perhaps Fred Johnston's chat-up lines will again win the day.

FRANK LE DUC



Barlow: "no sale"



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Whitbread to build £34m hotel

Whitbread, the brewing and leisure company, yesterday unveiled a £34 million development of a new Marriott hotel at Heathrow Airport.

The 390-room hotel is due to open in 1998 and will have conference facilities and a health club. The existing 350-room Marriott Heathrow Hotel at Langley will be renamed after the new hotel is completed.

Whitbread paid £180 million for 16 Marriott hotels last year and has since increased the chain by ten by rebranding its own Country Club hotels. The company aims to increase the Marriott portfolio to 33 by the end of the year.

Rolls success

Rolls-Royce, the aerospace and industrial power group, has won a £30 million order to supply engines to a Chinese airline. The company said that China Southern had chosen its V2500 engines to power its new fleet of ten A320 Airbus jets. Deliveries will begin next year. China Southern is the first Chinese airline to buy the V2500-powered A320, built by Airbus Industrie, the European consortium including British Aerospace.

Wardle deal

Wardle Stores, the manufacturer of plastic sheet, airborne systems and inflatable systems, has acquired the business and assets of the marine products division of SMR Technologies, based in Ohio, for \$9 million. At SMR's last financial year-end, the assets concerned had a book value of \$6.9 million. After significant one-off charges, the business made a loss of \$1.1 million on sales of \$6 million.

Plane firm hit

About 6,400 union employees of McDonnell Douglas yesterday went on strike after the collapse of contract negotiations with the US aerospace company. Union machinists have rejected McDonnell Douglas's proposed four-year contract. A three-year contract ended on May 19.



David Thomas, left, deputy chief executive, and John Jarvis see plenty of chances to buy hotels and will continue a strategy of individual purchases

Jarvis float includes £60m to fund further purchases

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

JOHN JARVIS, chairman and chief executive of Jarvis Hotels, said yesterday the company would have about £60 million to spend on expanding its hotel chain after this month's planned flotation.

Jarvis Hotels is aiming to raise £133 million when it floats on the stock market on June 21. Shares in the company will be priced at between

150p and 170p, valuing the company at about £280 million.

Mr Jarvis said the money raised would be used to reduce debt and allow the company to continue with its investment and acquisition plans. The float will also allow the company's existing investors to realise part of their stakes and improve brand awareness.

About £60 million of the money raised will be used to

reduce bank debts while the balance will be used to meet obligations to the institutional shareholders.

Mr Jarvis, who was previously head of Ladbroke's hotel division, is selling shares worth about £15 million at flotation but will continue to hold 2.8 million shares. Other leading investors, which include Candover, Electra, Charterhouse Development Capital and Kleinwort Benson

Development Capital, will sell about a third of their stakes in the company.

The company, which was founded in 1990, owns and operates 62 mid-market hotels throughout the UK. The hotels also offer conference facilities and a chain of Sebastian Coe health clubs. Jarvis made a profit last year, excluding exceptional items, of £23 million. The company's assets are currently valued at £323 million.

Mr Jarvis said: "With gearing reduced to 29 per cent, we will have the necessary financial flexibility to continue growing. There are plenty of opportunities for new acquisitions in the middle market and we will concentrate on a strategy of individual purchases."

Mr Jarvis added that the company wanted to ensure expansion could continue after flotation without the need to make regular cash-calls on investors.

The company said that it will operate a progressive dividend policy with the first interim dividend to be paid for the 15 weeks to October 12.

The company added that trading this year had been encouraging and had met management expectations. Pro-forma earnings per ordinary share would have been 9.9p for the year to the March 31, giving an historic price-earnings ratio of 16.2 times.

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Big increase in awards made by investment ombudsman

By JODY BRETTKELLY

THE TOTAL paid out by the investment ombudsman over complaints against the industry climbed from £13,848 to £222,018 in the year to April 30. Complaints nearly quadrupled, from 91 to 373.

Richard Youard, who is retiring after seven years as the investment ombudsman, said that the increases were not because the industry was worse but because his office now dealt with cases previously dealt with by the Investment and Management Regulatory Organisation, the industry watchdog. The biggest complaint concerned poor financial advice about savings and investment plans, followed by portfolio management and Peps.

Mr Youard said that in one case an adviser was aware a product was unsuitable but said he would have "his hands chopped off" if he did not recommend it.

Total claims jumped from £1.7 million to £2.4 million and the average claim rose from £5,800 to £11,900. The huge increase in the amount paid out was partly the result of a body of complaints about one company, whose fund management bore no relation to its literature. Investors opting for low-risk investment were put in high-risk stocks.

The results for the year show that 56 per cent of cases were in favour of the complainant, compared with 30 per cent the previous year. Mr Youard said: "Some would say that having lurched hysterically towards companies last year, I have now veered erratically back in favour of complainants. Rubbish!"

The highest payment increased from £3,900 to £23,884 and related to a failure to match the risk level specified by the investor. The claim is still being investigated.

Mr Youard said it was significant that the complainant decided to reduce his claim to £100,000 to bring it within the scheme rather than having to resort to the courts. "This is wholly unsatisfactory. The Small Claims Court has a limit of £1,000 and a proposed

limit of £3,000. Whereas I have the power to make awards of up to £100,000. Is that right?"

The lowest payment remained unchanged at £20.

One of the ombudsman's new powers was to make awards of up to £750 for distress and inconvenience. Payments ranged from £20, where an investor was not advised properly about a Peps but suffered no financial loss, to £350 for an 82-year-old investor who incurred unnecessary Capital Gains Tax.

Woolwich takes care of deceased

By ROBERT MILLER

WOOLWICH, the building society that plans to become a £3 billion bank next year, yesterday published details aimed at protecting the free share payout for members who have died since the end of last year or do so before the actual conversion.

In leaflets being handed out free at its 410 branches, the Woolwich says that in the event of a qualifying member dying the eligibility for free shares is protected in most cases.

The Woolwich, the UK's third-largest society, also outlined the terms of the variable payout for many of the 3.5 million qualifying savers and borrowers.

All qualifying members will receive a standard free share payout worth roughly £750. However, those who have been members for more than two years will receive an extra helping of shares, providing they have a minimum overall account balance of £1,000 on both key dates—December 31, 1995 and the date of the special general meeting, which is likely to be in the first half of next year. The maximum overall balance to be taken into account when allocating extra shares is £50,000.

Donald Kirkham, acting chief executive, said: "It is not possible to publish full details of the proposed distribution of shares, but we are able to give members key information about the additional variable distribution and treatment of deceased members."

Crest could force brokers out of business

THE number of stockbroking firms in the UK looks set to dwindle after next month's introduction of Crest, the new electronic stock exchange settlement system (Caroline Merrell writes).

The larger firms are predicting that some of the small and medium-sized companies could be forced to merge or

could even go out of business because of the price of services offered by Crest and the costs that some brokers face in bringing their technology systems up to date to cope with the new system.

David Jones, chief executive of Sharelink, the UK's biggest execution-only stockbroker, said: "The problems might

occur in the smaller firms, if they are going out, five or six months down the line, when it comes to the complexity of consolidating electronic records."

Crest, which cost £29 million to set up, will be officially launched on July 15. Its aim is to bring in a paperless system of share dealing for both

institutions and private investors alike.

Investors will be able to continue to use the old share certificate-based system of dealing, but some brokers are planning to make this more expensive than the electronic service. About 132 of the UK's 152 stockbrokers have so far registered with Crest.

German bank rescues KHD

FROM AP IN COLOGNE

KLOECKNER-Humboldt-Deutz (KHD), the German cement and engineering company brought to the brink of collapse by a fraud scandal, yesterday announced a rescue plan that includes new loans and concessions by its employees.

Under the terms of the agreement, Deutsche Bank, which already owns 48 per cent of the company, will inject an as-yet unspecified amount of fresh capital. In addition, the group's creditors will

waive interest payments for 15 months, and property and leasing divisions in Cologne and Mannheim will be sold.

The company's 9,400 employees will give up a portion of their salary and future pensions and accept longer hours, the bank said. The cost of the rescue was not initially disclosed.

Three executives at a KHD subsidiary were dismissed last week after allegations that the subsidiary had covered up DM650 million in losses since

1993. The three executives worked for KHD Humboldt Wedag, one of the world's leading cement-makers. Prosecutors in Cologne have begun an investigation into 15 Wedag employees against whom KHD has filed complaints.

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WEEK TWO

THE SUNDAY TIMES

1000 MAKERS OF SPORT



Olympic champion Heike Drechsler leaps into The Sunday Times 1000 Makers of Sport as the most successful jumper in history. Sunday's Part 2 also includes Jimmy Connors, Nadia Comaneci, Ted Dexter, Eusebio and Nick Faldo as this superb FREE series on world sporting legends takes the story from C to F

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

IP Groupe to sell 19% stake in Capital Radio

IP GROUPE, Capital Radio's largest shareholder, is selling its 19 per cent holding in a move that could raise £100 million (Sarah Bagnall writes).

IP Groupe has acquired its 13.8 million shares in the radio broadcaster over the past five years. IP made the purchases because there was potential for co-operation and joint development between the two companies. However, IP said yesterday that since its original investment, Capital Radi-

o's financial and operational position has improved but opportunities for co-operation have been limited.

IP Groupe has instructed Goldman Sachs to manage the placing of the shares, of which half are expected to be sold to Dominant, a subsidiary of IP Groupe. IP Groupe will buy put-and-call options over the Dominant shares, which should result in the sale of the shares by 1997. Capital Radio's shares fell 1p to 69p.

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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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5475	3000	Any Am Calif	4475	62	2	1
5480	3000	Any Am Calif	4480	35	21	2
5485	3000	Any Am Calif	4485	12 1/2	2	1
5490	3000	Any Am Calif	4490	12 1/2	2	1
5495	3000	Any Am Calif	4495	12 1/2	2	1
5500	3000	Any Am Calif	4500	12 1/2	2	1
5505	3000	Any Am Calif	4505	12 1/2	2	1
5510	3000	Any Am Calif	4510	12 1/2	2	1
5515	3000	Any Am Calif	4515	12 1/2	2	1
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5590	3000	Any Am Calif	4590	12 1/2	2	1
5595	3000	Any Am Calif	4595	12 1/2	2	1
5600	3000	Any Am Calif	4600	12 1/2	2	1
5605	3000	Any Am Calif	4605	12 1/2	2	1
5610	3000	Any Am Calif	4610	12 1/2	2	1
5615	3000	Any Am Calif	4615	12 1/2	2	1
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5750	3000	Any Am Calif	4750	12 1/2	2	1
5755	3000	Any Am Calif	4755	12 1/2	2	1

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100	140	117 1/2			16	128
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140	250	250			16	128
160	300	300			16	128
180	350	350			16	128
200	400	400			16	128
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640	1500	1500			16	128
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680	1600	1600			16	128
700	1650	1650			16	128
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740	1750	1750			16	128
760	1800	1800			16	128
780	1850	1850			16	128
800	1900	1900			16	128
820	1950	1950			16	128
840	2000	2000			16	128
860	2050	2050			16	128
880	2100	2100			16	128
900	2150	2150			16	128
920	2200	2200			16	128
940	2250	2250			16	128
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1080	2600	2600			16	128
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1120	2700	2700			16	128
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1160	2800	2800			16	128
1180	2850	2850			16	128
1200	2900	2900			16	128
1220	2950	2950			16	128
1240	3000	3000			16	128
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1460	3550	3550			16	128
1480	3600	3600			16	128
1500	3650	3650			16	128
1520	3700	3700			16	128
1540	3750	3750			16	128
1560	3800	38			16	128

OIL & GAS						
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20	52	Admiral Bagel	78		18	
24	53	Admiral Bagel	78		18	
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656	211	Admiral Bagel	78		18	
660	212	Admiral Bagel	78		18	
664	213	Admiral Bagel	78	</		

[illegible]

	Price	+	-	Net pay	Re- ceiv.
1974-75	125%	-	7%	9.90	7.97
1975-76	100%	-	7%	7.80	8.05
1976-77	100%	-	7%	7.94	8.07
1977-78	99%	-	6%	6.88	7.82
1978-79	114%	-	6%	8.37	8.12
1979-80	121%	-	5%	8.20	7.99
1980-81	100%	-	5%	8.45	8.15
1981-82	99%	-	5%	8.17	8.19
1982-83	100%	-	4%	7.28	8.25
1983-84	100%	-	4%	8.06	8.35
1984-85	100%	-	4%	8.46	8.30
1985-86	77%	-	4%	7.13	8.05
1986-87	100%	-	4%	8.46	8.30
1987-88	95%	-	4%	8.11	8.38
1988-89	100%	-	4%	8.22	8.35
1989-90	100%	-	4%	8.48	8.30
1990-91	100%	-	4%	8.46	8.40
1991-92	99%	-	4%	8.05	8.27
1992-93	97%	-	4%	8.28	..
1993-94	98%	-	4%	8.34	..
1994-95	97%	-	4%	8.04	..

[illegible]

499	259	Lyndy, Cheryl	478	2	27	18.2	
500	169	Harl	176	-	4	30	26.6
501	410	Martha Spennett	167	-	3	19.2	
502	169	James Lauder	167	-	3	19.2	
503	193	Rebecca Faint	167	-	3	19.2	
504	420	John Bess	167	-	3	19.2	
505	420	John	161	-	2	26.9	29.1
506	44	Dawn [D]	158	-	1	27	27.0
507	407	Andrew Hall	157	-	1	27	27.0
508	66	Patricia Lee	150	-	4	45	43.5
509	407	Andrew Hall	148	-	1	48	48.0
510	29	Robert Gray	137	-	4	37	37.4
511	193	Rebecca	240	-	3	79	18.4
512	105	John	235	-	1	51	51.0
513	14	Joaneger Green	245	-	1	54	54.0
514	407	Andrew Hall	248	-	11	44	44.0
515	281	Sarah-Jane	316	-	7	26	26.0
516	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
517	407	Andrew Hall	314	-	7	25	25.0
518	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
519	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
520	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
521	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
522	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
523	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
524	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
525	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
526	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
527	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
528	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
529	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
530	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
531	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
532	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
533	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
534	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
535	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
536	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
537	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
538	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
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555	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
556	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
557	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
558	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
559	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
560	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
561	281	Sarah-Jane	314	-	7	25	25.0
562	281	Sarah-Jane	31	-	7	25	25.0

SUPPORT SERVICES						
1243	683	ADP	1230	+	5	
126	100	Alpha Support	113	-	1	5.5
36	27	Alphabank	312		10	29.6
44		Asset Sec	32			
236	125	Auto	276	+	12	22.3
374	283	Bank Recs	375	+	2	21.2
184	155	BSRM	182		47	13.1
1950	1015	BTG	1924			0.3
1350	825	Centrad C	825	-	872	
135	100	Comstock	94			30.6
163	173	DB	163		47	23.3
104	80	Genetic Service	103		16	
456	379	Insurance Prod	448		2.0	30.0
280	317	MAN	654	-	15	21.2

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132	563	Mano Focus	176	-	3	-
132	571	Microlog	980	-	-	55 118
132	570	Macrolog	844	+ 2	14	26.0
132	575	Micro Geo	200	-	-	26.0
79	82	Nate Gap	176	-	-	3.0 12.4
50	30	Onco	176	-	-	1.8 21.8
171	129	P & P	120	-	-	2.3 15.6
329	173	Phos (Machon)	104	+ 6	10	17.6
329	177	Phos (Machon)	104	-	-	27.6
335	200	Pogues	525	-	1	2.2 24.2
98	79	Phos	162	-	-	5.1 48.4
169	129	Phos-Mile	162	-	-	3.8 12.6
42	62	Phos	162	-	-	6.9
272	177	Phos	207	-	-	1.1 14.8
148	105	SPC-Geo	130	-	-	3.1 14.7
84	47	Rushes	74	-	1	2.3
134	173	Real Time	243	- 20	23	16.1
118	105	Rushes	97	-	4	1.8
158	105	Rushes	97	-	4	1.8
240	214	Recess	240	+ 10	32	21.0

41.3%	325	Rembrandt	1434	+ 5	19.1
1.66	326	Alcatel Group	475	- 3	16.3
1.66	327	Waste Mgmt	170	- 1	1.8
2.07	328	State Gpt	244	+ 3	26.4
2.07	329	Sagecom (C)	265	- 2	12.3
2.27	126	Supercon Sect	189	- 2	1.2
2.27	127	World Applic	225	- 1	1.2
2.27	330	State Gpt	697	- 8	25.7
2.27	367	Senus Epc	813	- 1	35.5
2.54	331	Shenck & M&B	110	- 1	4.2
2.54	387	Shawed Int	212	- 2	12.8
2.54	388	Shenck & M&B	164	- 4	1.0
2.54	407	Shenck & M&B	174	- 1	1.2
2.54	389	Shenck & M&B	225	- 5	19.5
2.54	390	Supercon Vtr	585	- 1	16.5
2.54	391	Waste Mgmt	257	- 4	12.4
2.54	392	Waste Mgmt	381	- 1	1.2
2.54	393	Waste Mgmt	381	- 1	23.7

TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
286	325	BT	364	-14	8.6 11.2
554	430	Exhibit Wirematt	430	-4	2.9 14.2
127	135	General Cable	115	-	-
127	85	HYNEX Cable	115	-	-
253	220	Orange	240	-	-
100	1800	Satellite	2080	-10	0.2 44.3
330	838	Securiton 'A'	1175	-6	0.4 34.9
330	835	Security Star	1175	-6	0.8 28.2
193	110	Telcelnet	175	-14	-
265	205	Telestream	205	-6	2.0 24.7

53	41	Albin	59	38	22.0
180	140	Albin Wj	141	58	13.0
249	211	Albin	210	~ 4	12.5
181	180	Bart (WPHW)	204	4	37.0
165	135	Bradley-Gentry	142	+ 3	3.5
142	133	Byrth	143	79	12.8
24	24	Byrth	24	24	24
25	25	Camper	25	25	25
25	25	Camper	25	25	25
228	228	Chambers Gyl	233	5.2	14.0
187	185	Chas. Vreder	178	6.2	13.5
207	205	Courtesy's Land	206	~ 1	5.1
111	111	Courtesy's Land	111	111	11.0
175	175	Curtis	180	4.2	5.5
30	30	Devel	31	~ 3	2.5
37	30	Director Hall	37	0.0	8.4
30	30	Dunsmuir	27	2.0	9.5
30	25	Fangel	27	+ 2	17.4
25	25	Fangel	25	25	5.3
25	25	Fangel	25	25	7.1
25	25	Fangel	25	25	7.1
14	7	Foster (John)	11	5.5	7.5

[illegible]

17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	1
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167	Ar Los Angeles	120		3.3	11.9
822-447	Western Ave	101-14	1	3.3	
205	Assoc. Fr. Porto	252	2	2.8	18.7
472	Banc.	496	- 4	3.7	16.3
464	Fr. Management	638	- 6	3.2	11.3
101	Chatham Tm. R.				
101	Chatham (01)	103		3.6	
182	Clayton	171	- 1	3.2	12.9
214	Dart	220		2.7	14.6
32	Evangelical L.	100-4	- 10		
1398	Fr. (01)	155		3.5	
85	Fisher (Jamaic)	130		1.9	17.8
530	Fifth Ports	875	+ 36	2.3	27.2
227	Fr. General	716		2.0	14.1
248	Genie Tassat	385	+ 17	3.4	14.8
188	Genie Tassat	385		3.4	14.8
478	Genie Tassat	556		0.9	14.1
85	Jacobus	824		1.9	
82	Lon O'Shea Fr.	86		0.7	12.9

140	AFC	151 1/2	3 1/2	59	22.0
362	High Express	406		25	14.0
372	Ocean Group	448	- 1	40	19.6
86	Ocean Whitest	94		48	5.2
417	P & O 2.5M	515	- 4	74	13.3
187	P & O 2.5M	77	+ 2	49	15.8
56	Seacon	52		49	25.9
230	Servicair	369	+ 9	15	
327	Slingshot	445	+ 7	1.5	26.1
67	TLS	90		38	13.5
74	TNT	77	- 1	37	30.2
330	Ward & Doyle	605	- 5	23	
187	WTA	186	- 1	61	14.3
60	Upstart	77	+ 1	6.0	10.8
74	Unit Carriers	105		3.8	

WATER				
512	Anglian	580	- 12	6.6 7.1
718	Hydra	740	- 8	7.1 8.8
894	Weston Con Pnt	1024	- 9	8.8 9.7
420	Mid West Hdg	543	- 10	5.7
540	Severn Trent	567	- 15	8.4 7.1
2375	South Staffs	2525	-	3.8
488	South West	669	- 3	5.9 8.3
652	Southern	981	- 1	3.5 11.9
530	Thames	870	- 8	6.5 7.2
545	Utl Utilities	578	- 6	6.5 11.0
700	Wessex	768	- 4	4.9 7.7
263	Yorkshire	718	- 16	5.7 10.3

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET					
18	Albany Records	65			
95	Cafe Inn	105	- 7	1.5	13.6
56	Country Express	78		2.2	
880	Danceland Hops	1625	- 25	2.5	14.2
33	Finnvox	80			
14	Freemans	314	+ 4		
12	Gayphonics	104	- 1		...
126	Monument Corp	134	- 3		
90	Old English Pub	122	+ 2	1.0	
365	Pet. Cat	400			
524	Southwest News	574		3.5	15.1
50	Southwest Vedio	88			
122	Sunny Pl Inn	252	- 6	1.1	27.3
48	Tricorders	88			

76	51	Abbot Group	78	18
47%	38	Admiral Petroleum	4%	
46	33	Aus Oil & Gas	45	7%
606	379	B. B. Borealis	36	
267	171	British Petroleum	577	7 1/2 29
693	512	BP Petroleum	688	1 96 35
3%	14	BP Petroleum	581	1 37 168
1084	533	BP Petroleum	2%	
258	116	BP Petroleum	1949	3 40 156
		BP Petroleum	253	4 10 27

143	379	Revenue Exp	638		8.7
508	399	Range	475		4.4
1031	1240	Fixed Chg R	5720	+ 60%	7.9
501P	425P	Scholarships	5404	+ 46%	1.8
31	23	Scott Personnel	20		28.6
98	75	Seminars	84		
938	627	Salaries	196	+ 8	16.2
443	476P	Total	494	+ 24%	17.2
491	338	Students	375	+ 4	11
55	55	RA	23		

OTHER FINANCIAL					
143	104	Alumniates Est	194		3.4
118	77	BWD	112	- 1	2.1
					23.4

2% 2002-05	125%	- 1/2	9.00	7.97
1% 2006	90% 1	- 1/2	7.00	8.05
1% 2006	90%	- 1/2	7.50	8.05
2% 2002-05	90%	- 1/2	6.03	6.67
1% 2002-07	119%	- 1/2	9.04	7.92
1% 2007	102%	- 1/2	8.27	8.12
1% 2004-08	117% 1/2	- 1/2	7.28	7.99
1% 2008	105%	- 1/2	8.45	8.15
2% 2008	107%	- 1/2	8.17	8.19
b)				
1% 2010	103%	- 1/2	7.50	8.25
2% 2010	106%	- 1/2	8.45	8.25
2% 2012	106%	- 1/2	8.46	8.29
1% 2009-12	77%	- 1/2	7.13	8.05

4% 2000	116%	+ %	3.41	3.77
2% 2005	102%	+ %	3.39	3.78
2% 2000	103%		3.39	3.91
2% 2011	100%		3.81	3.82
2% 2013	137%	+ %	3.65	3.84
2% 2000	140%		3.69	3.86
2% 2013	141%	***	3.71	3.85
2% 2004	117%	**	3.70	3.84
4% 2010	135%	.	3.70	3.84

TRANSPORT			
107	Am Lashburn	126	3.9 11.9
822A	Am Niagara	891A	0.3
205	Amco Air Parts	292	2 28.7
472	B&H	496	7 16.3
464	Br. Fairport	639	6 3.2 3.3
9	Chemical Trans R	10%	
101	Clackson (G)	103	3.6
162	Clydeport	171	1 32.9
214	D	220	2 27.4
2	Frederick & L	10%	10
139A	Frederick & L	167	3.3
85	Fisher (Hawest)	130	1.9 11.9
350	Forth Ports	875	+ 36 27.2
277	St. Andrew	10%	2 14.1
248	Goodie Chemical	385	+ 17 4.4 14.8
103	Island Shores	154	1 3.7

478	Irish Club	556		0.9	14.1
55	Jacobs	824		0.8	17.9
290	Joe O'Shea, Ftn	403		3.3	17.8
460	Mercy Duchs	433		5.9	22.0
140	NFC	1514	- 3*	2.5	14.0
352	Neil Express	486		2.5	14.0
372	Ocean Group	448	- 1	4.0	19.6
360	Orlando	34		5.2	2.2
467	P & O Unit	515	- 2	7.4	13.5
135	P & O 5.5%	763	+ 2	4.2	
36	Samson	56		4.8	26.1
230	Servino	369	+ 9	1.5	
327	Shenough	446		3.8	12.5
67	ILS	90		3.8	12.5
74	TNT	77	- 1		
330	Harley & Brown	605	- 5	3.7	34.2
167	TIG	186	- 1	6.1	14.3
40	Upstart	77	+ 1	6.0	10.8
74	Life Savers	105		3.8	

WATER				
512	Anglian	580	- 12	6.6 7.1
703	Hydr	740	- 8	7.1 8.8
387	Hydr On Pnt	1024	-	8.6
420	Mid West Hlps	543	+ 10	5.7
540	Seamex Trans	367	+ 15	6.4 7.1
2375	South Stds	2525	-	3.9
488	South West	689	- 3	5.9 8.3
626	Southern	387	- 1	3.7 11.9
530	Thames	579	- 9	6.5 7.2
545	Utl Distries	570	- 6	6.5 11.0
265	Wessex	350	- 4	4.9 7.7
593	Yorkshire	718	- 16	5.7 10.3

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET				
18	Abrams Parcel	45		
95	Cable Inns	105	- 7	1.5 13.6
56	Country Edm	78		2.2
880	Country Hops	1625	- 25	2.5 14.2
53	Danco			
1	East	514	+	
82	Highlands	104	- 1	...
126	Memory Corp	132	- 3	
90	Old English Pub	122	+ 2	1.0
365	Pat Day	420		
524	Southern Hts	574		3.5 15.1
50	Southern Vests	58		
1	St. E	28	- 1	1.1 27.3

PL	Using TI	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence
40	40	1.1	27.5	1.1	27.5

Australia unveils biggest share offer

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA'S biggest public share offer got under way yesterday with the Government's sale of its remaining 50.4 per cent stake in Commonwealth Bank, the country's largest retail bank, which is expected to raise more than A\$5 billion (£2.55 billion).

Under the two-tranche share offer, which is the first of its kind in Australia, investors will pay a first fixed instalment of A\$6 with a second instalment payable by November 1997. The final share price will be announced next month.

Almost 400 million of the Government's shares, representing a stake of 40 per cent, will be offered for sale through the public offer. The remaining 10 per cent stake is to be sold to the Commonwealth Bank through a share buyback scheme.

Launching the share offer, John Fahey, Australia's Minister for Finance, said: "This is a momentous event, not only in the history of the Commonwealth Bank, but also for the Australian financial community."

Up to 140 million shares, representing 35 per cent of the share offer, have been earmarked for institutional investors and there is no limit on how many shares may be

acquired by UK and other foreign institutional investors. The partly paid shares will be entitled to three dividend payments before the second instalment is due.

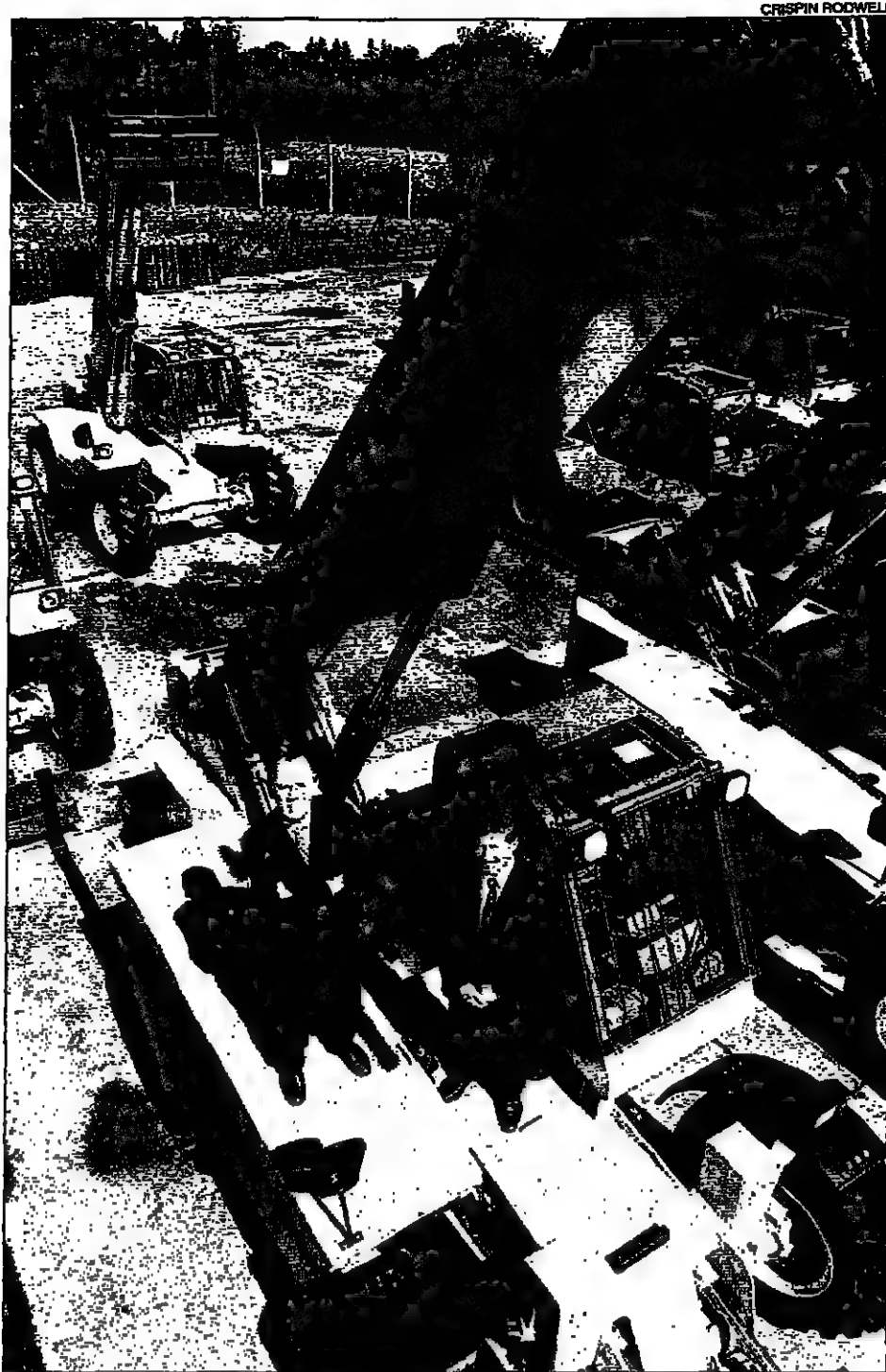
The public offer marks the third and final sale of shares in Commonwealth Bank by the Australian Government, which sold a 29.3 per cent stake in the bank in 1991 for A\$1.7 billion and a 20.3 per cent stake in 1993 for A\$1.3 billion.

Banking analysts in Sydney welcomed the two instalment sale, saying that it would have been too big for the Australian stock market to swallow in one go.

One said: "It's a good deal. The dual instalment structure means that you get a 15.5 per cent dividend yield on your shares and that's huge. I reckon the sale should go pretty well."

However, other analysts expressed concern that Commonwealth Bank's move last week to reduce its home loan interest rates by 0.6 per cent to 9.9 per cent could eat into next year's profits.

The bank chalked up a 19 per cent rise in net profits to A\$542 million in the half year to December 1995. Commonwealth Bank shares closed up 4 cents at \$10.04 on the Australian stock market.



Shay McKeown, chief executive, left, with Pat Dooley, sales and marketing director

Powerscreen delivers a profits advance

FROM EILEEN McCABE IN DUBLIN

POWERSCREEN, the screening, crushing and recycling group, increased profits last year and Shay McKeown, chief executive, said its order books were in a healthy state.

The company, based in Dungannon, Co Tyrone, made pre-tax profits of £36.1 million in the year ending March 31, compared with £29.1 million the previous year.

The company said the strong results were the result of its strategy of increasing the geographic spread of sales and expanding into new markets. Powerscreen now sells across Europe as well as in North America and the Far East.

John Craig, the company's chairman, said: "Order levels throughout the three divisions are healthy and ahead of last year. Further penetration of overseas markets is a primary aim of all companies within the group."

In September, Powerscreen acquired Peggson for £13.5 million in an attempt to give the crushing and recycling division a better mix. The group said the purchase had enhanced its crushing equipment range, contributed to its results and was performing well.

Last month, after the end of its financial year, the company bought US Truck Cranes from JLG Industries for \$11.9 million. The Pennsylvania company designs and makes lorry-mounted hydraulic cranes.

A final dividend of 6.7p a share lifts the total to 9.2p, from 8.1p, payable from earnings of 30.5p a share, compared with 25p.

Waddington to lift capacity

BY MARTIN BARKOW

JOHN WADDINGTON, the packaging group which spent £30.3 million on capital investment last year, plans to invest a further £30 million during the current year to increase capacity.

The company's latest investment is intended to support the development of Waddington's pharmaceutical packaging and specialist printing activities. The company is hoping to increase its UK

market share and win further orders from continental Europe.

Waddington yesterday reported a 33.2 per cent rise in profits from continuing activities to £29.4 million for the year to March 31 on turnover that increased to £286.6 million from £238.5 million.

At the pre-tax level, profits fell to £11.86 million from £53.3 million. However, the results were distorted by an

exceptional charge of £13.76 million for the year just ended.

In addition, the company booked a £30.75 million profit in the previous year on the sale of its board games business.

There is a final dividend of 5.4p a share, making a total of 9.4p (8.7p). Adjusted earnings rose to 17.59p a share from 16.9p. The shares rose 6p to 249p.

Staveley dividend increase

BY OUR CITY STAFF

STAVELEY Industries, the measurement instruments and minerals company, is lifting the annual dividend for the first time since 1993 after achieving a 15 per cent rise in profits in the year to March 31.

Pre-tax profits improved to £23.2 million from £20.2 million on turnover that rose to £372.9 million from £342.2 million, the company reported yesterday. Roy Hitchens, Staveley's chief executive,

said: "Our twin track approach of improving operational performance while refining strategic focus has begun to produce results."

However, in spite of the improved results announced yesterday, the company's shares fell 5p to finish the day at 219p.

The total dividend is increased to 9p a share from 8.5p, with a final 6.7p. The company's earnings improved

to 16.4p a share from 13.6p a share.

Nelson Group Services, a technical maintenance company, and MMP Quality Inspections, acquired during the year, contributed revenues of £22.7 million and operating profit of £1.1 million. The acquisitions and restructuring of the measurement division contributed to a rise in borrowings. The interest charge rose £300,000 to £3.4 million.

ACCOUNTANCY

Options for fixed assets

David Chitty joins the debate on the ASB's consultative paper on the treatment of impairment

THE Accounting Standards Board (ASB) recently published a discussion paper on the accounting treatment of impairments of tangible fixed assets. It is the first step in developing a new accounting standard for tangible fixed assets. Further proposals are expected later this year.

The paper supports the established principle that assets should not be included in the balance sheet at an amount greater than their recoverable amount. The paper aims to develop guidance as to how the recoverable amount should be calculated and to define what constitutes a diminution in value. There is no guidance on these matters in current UK standards.

The paper goes on to consider the accounting treatment of previously revalued assets. The proposals only require an impairment test where there is evidence of impairment—such as expected future losses, a significant adverse change in the business environment or a significant decrease in the market value of the asset.

This guidance is welcome. However, the methodology of the impairment test appears complex and involves the use of predicted future cashflows and discounting. The methodology makes accounts more

difficult to understand for less sophisticated users, including the directors and shareholders of many smaller companies, and provides accountants with many creative opportunities.

The review of the accounting treatment will be influenced by international developments. A recently introduced US standard takes a broadly similar approach to impairment as the ASB's. On the wider subject of the full review of accounting for tangible fixed assets, existing US standards hold that all assets, except land, have a finite life and thus must be depreciated over their useful economic life.

In the US, upward revaluations of fixed assets, which are permitted in the UK, are not allowed. International accounting standards allow treatments, including upward revaluations, which are virtually identical to SSAPs 12 and 19. However, revisions in international standards resulting in the withdrawal of the exemption from depreciation given to investment properties are expected.

The European Commission is developing guidance on the direction of accounting in the European Union. Non-depreciation of all properties contravenes European law, and, as a result, there will be considerable pressure on the ASB to



David Chitty welcomes the new proposals from the ASB

require all fixed assets to be depreciated.

Acceptance by the ASB of the International trend to require all fixed assets to be depreciated is inconsistent with the treatment that will be proposed for accounting for goodwill and intangible fixed assets in the wake of last October's public hearings. The ASB is propos-

ing that under specific circumstances, intangibles may be regarded as having an infinite economic useful life and not be subjected to depreciation. Conceptually, there is no reason why tangible fixed assets with infinite or very long lives should not be treated in the same way as intangibles. This also encourages consistency

in the output of the ASB. Any change in accounting for fixed assets could have a fundamental impact upon reported earnings and hence dividend policy within the sectors that currently take advantage of the exemptions and permitted deviations. Although cashflows will not be affected by any requirement to depreciate all fixed assets, the impact upon earnings could be dramatic for confidence within the property sector or rapid growth, high-premium sectors, such as independent pub operators.

Damage to investor perception may restrict the ability of such sectors to raise funds and contribute to economic growth. The impairment proposals could result in the recognition of more diminution in value. However, to avoid reporting a diminution there may be pressure on accounts preparers to manipulate the impairment test to show that no diminution has occurred.

The ASB proposals for fixed-asset accounting could have far-reaching effects for several sectors of the UK economy. There are some good ideas on impairment, although the ASB must assess with care the methodology for the impairment test. It has the opportunity in its wider assessment to codify and review current UK practice to reflect economic realism, and to influence the international debate on this issue.

The author is technical manager at Chantray Vellacott

Technology leads the tax revolution

THE tax world continues to stir. Ten years ago, tax was a discipline shared by a few of great importance, but hardly seen as central to the great corporate scheme of things. Not anymore. The tax world now talks of competitive cultures, of organisational structures and processors, performance measurement and technology, just as much as the rest of the corporate world. And there is more to come.

At present, I am in Chicago, on holiday, mostly watching baseball. But Chicago is also home to Arthur Andersen. And so I spent a morning this week with Harry Ruffalo, worldwide head of tax and business advisory services. He is full of talk of "re-engineering the tax department".

Tax has become more sophisticated. And with sophistication comes complexity. Equal-

ity, tax has become a global discipline. It has grown enormously over the past decade. Now we're about to see the result of those pressures. All these bright people doing extremely lucrative work are no longer

occupants of a Clapham omnibus, used to represent a once-a-year Budget headline of 10p on booze and fags. Now it is a central and increasingly better understood issue. But there is some distance still to travel.

"Tax," said Ruffalo, "is the biggest expense that any company has, but it is also the least understood." This is a matter of corporate culture. "It is a question," he said, "of getting companies to understand that tax planning and decisions are a day-to-day process and not an historical once a year look."

Here technology is driving the change. Real-time financial reporting enables tax planners to work off current figures. Where as traditionally this was always far from true.

In the US most companies work to a December year-end. But the tax accounts do not have to be filed until the following September. This gave the company nine months to reconfigure their figures for tax purposes. The pressure to be able to produce the figures closer to the year end did not exist.

But it does now. The value of timely tax planning is obvious. Ruffalo's reasoning is down to earth. "Those companies which brought their tax people in have made a difference of maybe a couple of cents per unit and have made their product more competitive," he said.

And technology can provide such benefits. "Companies," said Ruffalo, "have not thought of tax in terms of their financial systems. So the tax people had to make their decisions after the systems had worked something out." But now technology allows you constantly to reconfigure the financial systems. Tax people work off current information. The opportunities for tax planning multiply. "Tax," in the words of Ruffalo, "should not be an afterthought."

And increasingly it will not be. And nor will its corporate practitioners. A few years ago the same happened for finance directors. Their expertise and understanding across the corporate structure propelled them to a central management importance.

Now the tax world talks in the same terms for the corporate taxation chiefs. As compliance work becomes more technologically routine the tax team will be freed. In Ruffalo's words "outstanding, creative people can be brought forward and the pay off is when they bring more value to their managements."

No wonder the talk is all of "the re-engineering of tax." And no wonder that Andersen in the UK is headed by a taxman.



ROBERT BRUCE

Arthur Andersen changes places

THERE is a potentially alarming sign outside the worldwide headquarters of Arthur Andersen in the centre of Chicago. "Entire building available," it reads, and directs you to a local estate agent. Surely Andersen and its trademark double doors are not going to leave the city where it all started in 1913? Of course not. It is simply moving the headquarters across town. And, in

any case, the original Arthur Andersen doors remain in their shrine at the firm's campus training centre outside town.

Sounds familiar

AUSTIN MITCHELL, the crusading MP for greater outside representation in the profession's affairs, would find himself at home in the US at

present. The body that oversees the work of the Financial Accounting Standards Board is under pressure to boost its number with outsiders, rather than members of companies or audit firms, who direct its operations. The New York Times has even devoted a thunderous leader column to the topic. "Accounting standards are important because accountants provide the num-

bers that tell investors how well the companies are doing," it argued. Sir David Tweedie's influence is spreading.

Options on pay

THE other great topic in the US is executive pay, or rather the ability to boost pay through options. Daily disclosures of astronomical increases coupled with calcula-

tions of the ever-widening gap between executive pay levels and employee pay levels provoke widespread outbreaks of cynicism. One cartoon said it all this week. Under a banner of "Corporate Democracy", a chairman is depicted telling his board: "Okay. We have two options, so let's take a vote. Either we cut back our perks and use the revenue to improve our product. Or lay off a bunch of people below us and give ourselves a bonus."

ROBERT BRUCE

UNIT TRUST PRICES 33

مذكرات الأحم

Bringing drunks down to earth

A curmudgeonly old relative once caused great amusement when, waking from a post-lunch nap, he complained that he had a thumping headache because "they gave me too much to drink."

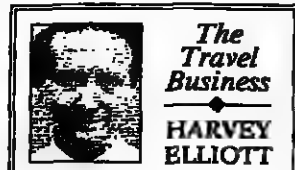
The excuse put forward this week for the behaviour of the England football team on the Cathay Pacific flight from Hong Kong was of similarly feeble quality.

Cabin crew are trained to pamper passengers — especially those who have paid more than £2,500 to travel in business-class comfort. But the recipients of all their care and attention are in turn expected to behave properly and to know when to stem the flow of free drinks. Those who do not, and as a result cause damage or commit a criminal offence, face prosecution on landing — provided the aircraft is registered in Britain and the alleged incident took place in British airspace.

Cathay Pacific is registered in Hong Kong. Even though the colony is, for another year, British, Cathay is still regarded under British aviation law as "foreign". It would also have been almost impossible to tell whether the damage was caused in British or international airspace. So the England footballers could not have been prosecuted, whatever their alleged offences during the flight.

Had the culprits travelled with British Airways or Virgin, they probably would have been accused of criminal damage or perhaps endangering an aircraft. Some hardliners would, perhaps, say that the authorities should have invoked a clause in the Civil Aviation Act 1982, which would have held the alleged troublemakers in custody until they could be extradited for trial in Hong Kong.

Realistically, that was never going to happen, so the team



The Travel Business
HARVEY ELLIOTT

escaped with a collective fine and a wiggling from their manager.

But the incident has again raised the problem of how to deal with drunken or badly behaved passengers. Today Michael Colvin, MP, will try to steer a Private Member's Bill towards the creation of a law that would allow those who commit a crime on a plane to be prosecuted in Britain, wherever it is registered.

We can only wish him and his backers success, but even if all goes to plan it will be August before the measure is on the statute book: too late to deal with any potential Euro 96 thugs.

It is a pity, because the charter airlines especially were making strides towards ridding themselves of the menace of drunken passengers.

Few of them now serve free drinks and they have made it clear that if the captain is concerned, he can divert the plane to the nearest airport. Let him find his own way home, then take him to court to sue for the cost of the diversion.

Perhaps it is also time to consider taking duty-free items from passengers as they board to store in a sealed compartment, so that those denied alcohol on a flight cannot simply open their duty-free instead.

And it is yet another reason for barring the use of "flags of convenience" — the foreign charter jets, whose British passengers would also be immune from prosecution — from being used in the British package-holiday market.

Bargains of the week — latest offers on holidays, ferries, flights and hotels

HOLIDAYS

■ **RAVELLO**'s music festival runs from tomorrow until July 18 and places are available for a week's holiday at the Hotel Paradiso on the Amalfi coast from June 21. Prices from £1,400 start at £400 a person, including half-board and flight. Details: 0181-241 5111.

■ **CRYSTAL** Italy is offering savings of £100 on holidays to Florence starting on Saturday and continuing to July 13. Prices start at £375 a person for a week's bed and breakfast at a three-star hotel. Flights from Gatwick and Manchester. Details: 0181-390 5554.

■ **THE Vendée** coast for a week in a studio apartment for two adults and two children is available from £85.50 a person, including Portsmouth-Caen ferry crossings, from now until June 21 with Brittany Ferries. Details: 0990 360360.

■ **TALL STORIES** has a few places left on adventure holidays in June, including a week's mountain biking, paragliding and rafting in Austria from June 15 for £375 a person. Flights extra but special deals available. Details: 01932 252002.

■ **GREEK** islands are on offer from Inspirations, including Zante from £246 a person, with flights from Newcastle on June 21 and 28 and from Birmingham on July 4, plus Rhodes for £289 from Gatwick on June 26. Details: 01293 822244.

■ **THE MALDIVES** are on special offer from Kuoni, with a fortnight's half-board at Boduinahu costing from £739 a person, a saving of up to £150, until July 14. Flights from Gatwick. Details: 01306 740500.

■ **SAVINGS** of £50 a person for holidays in Corsica and Sardinia in July and August are being offered by Holiday Options, bringing the price for a family of four at a Corsican property, for example, down to £1,336 for a week's bed and breakfast. Return flights from Gatwick included. Details: 0171-637 4422.

■ **SUMMER** breaks in Norway are being offered by Color Line with prices starting at £183 a person for a week's holiday, including return Newcastle-Bergen sailings and accommodation in the Aseral Chalet resort. Details: 0191-296 1313.

■ **AUSTRAL** has launched a new Western Australia brochure, offering accommodation from £18 a person a night, car hire from £22 a day and motorhomes from £35. The company can provide flights to Perth from £549 return. Details: 0171-734 7755.



Riding the St Anton area: cycling holidays in Austria are on offer at £375 a person

FERRIES

■ **SEA FRANCE** offers a £37 two-day return crossing on Dover-Calais for a car and up to five people, available until July 12. Book 48 hours in advance. June day trips are £10 per car and £1 per person (£10 supplement on Saturdays). Details: 01304 204204.

■ **STENA LINE** has £39 two-day returns for a car and up to five people on its routes to Calais, Dieppe and Cherbourg, with day-trip prices at £15 per car and £1 per person. As with P&O, Stena guarantees it will match any other fares. Details: 0990 767676.

■ **P&O** European Ferries also has new fares for travel by July 15 to Calais, Le Havre or Cherbourg. A two-day ticket costs £39 for a car and up to five passengers. Details: 0990 980980.

■ **RED FUNNEL** has a special limited capacity £25 return fare on Southampton-Isle of Wight 11am sailings for a car and up to four people. Available Sunday to Friday (excluding Cowes Week, August 3-9). Details: 01703 334010.

■ **SWANSEA** Cork Ferries (01792 456116) is promoting Ford Cork Week, which is expected to draw 10,000 visitors to a series of international yacht races between July 15 and 19. Pares for a car and up to five passengers start at £119 one-way until July 16 (foot passengers £28).

FLIGHTS

■ **CONCORDE** fans can book to Indonesia and Saudi Arabia over the coming months. Flights to Jakarta (one-way £3,011) operate on June 23, while Jeddah (one-way £1,303) is served on July 4 and 11, also September 13. Details: 0345 222111.

■ **FORMER BT** customers who reconnect by June 30 qualify for discounts of up to 30 per cent for as many as four passengers on most British Airways published fares. Details: 0345 222111.

■ **HOLDERS** of London City Airport's City to Cities loyalty card qualify for a cut-price £120 return business fare to Paris CDG, flying with Air Jet. Details: 0171-476 6000.

■ **TRAVELBUG** has negotiated special fares from London and Manchester to Melbourne, flying Emirates Air via Dubai. Return fares cost £795 economy, £2,226 for business and £3,498 for first class; begins June 25. Details: 0161-740 9998.

■ **THRICE** daily flights between Gatwick and Edinburgh have been launched by British Airways. Details: 0345 222111.

■ **MEMBERS** of Eva Air's Evergreen loyalty scheme qualify for a £25 voucher redeemable against most tickets between London, Bangkok and Taipei. Details: 0171-837 5391.

HOTELS

■ **THE** Petersham Hotel, overlooking the Thames at Richmond and convenient for Ascot and Wimbledon, has a two-night "lobster and luxury" package available until the end of July for £119 a person. As well as room and breakfast, the price includes a special shellfish dinner. Details: 0181-940 7471.

■ **THE** Brighton Thistle Hotel, located on the seafront, has a special rate from July 5 until August 23 of £89 a double room a night, including breakfast, instead of the normal rate for two people of £164.50 a night. The offer is based on a minimum two-night stay. Details: 01273 206700.

■ **SCOTTISH** golfing hotel Glenegles has a "summer whites" programme offering full board for two nights, with extra summer activities ranging from an Edwardian-style picnic to croquet, bowls and rafting on the River Tay. Price: £356 a person until the end of August. Details: 01764 662231.

■ **THE** Radisson Edwardian Group has relaunched its Marlborough Hotel in central London after a £2.75 million facelift with a weekend theatre-break package. Costing £97 a person, the price includes one night's accommodation with breakfast, a theatre ticket to a top show and discounted dining vouchers. Details: 0171-636 5601.

■ **HILTON INTERNATIONAL**'s new summer promotion offers discounts of up to 30 per cent off regular rates at more than 140 hotels worldwide. Details: 0800 8568000.

■ **MARRIOTT**'s summer leisure-break rates include complimentary room, breakfast, late checkout on Sundays and a 20 per cent discount on dinners for two. Starting June 30, until September 3. Details: 0800 212222.

■ **LEARN** to play golf at Turnberry in Scotland for £675 a person for three nights' accommodation, dinner, equipment hire and tuition. The final day will include a nine-hole round with a PGA professional. Details: 01655 331000.

■ **QUEEN'S MOAT HOUSES**' new "host of Europe" packages cover 30 four-star and five-star continental hotels, with prices starting from £104 a couple for two nights. The offer includes 20 per cent off P&O ferry crossings. Details: 0645 333666.

■ **SUMMER** in the City promotional rates from Summit Hotels, representing some 52 de luxe hotels worldwide, include £160 for the Landmark in London. Details: 0800 556555.

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Plantation failure in the Caribbean

By DAVID CHURCHILL

THE Jalousie Plantation resort in St Lucia, one of the Caribbean's top luxury hotels, closed down suddenly last week after reportedly sustaining substantial losses.

The leading tour operator Elegant Resorts said yesterday it had stopped booking British holidaymakers to the Jalousie Plantation earlier this year after receiving complaints from guests. "It is our policy to stop selling hotels where there are complaints and so we moved our guests to another luxury hotel on the island," the company said.

The 320-acre resort hotel, with 114 rooms and cottages, offered an all-inclusive holiday costing up to £3,600 per person for a two-week stay. This price covered not only accommodation but also all meals and drinks, a popular package offered in Caribbean hotels.

Observers believe the Jalousie Plantation's up-market clientele wanted a more select holiday than the all-inclusive deal it offered. "It was a very expensive product to try to sell," said Martin Gras, European vice-president for sales and marketing for Superclubs which operates a number of all-inclusive resorts around the Caribbean, but not the Jalousie.

"The type of guest the Jalousie appeared to attract were sophisticated and wealthy enough, for example, to want to choose their own wines rather than have access only to the limited list available. They are not the sort who wanted free American champagne instead of genuine French wines."

The Jalousie Plantation opened in the early 1990s after part of the estate was sold to

outside investors including the Maldivian family — believed to be of Iranian extraction. The hotel was located in an isolated part of the island on a former copra estate and opened amid some controversy about its impact on the local environment. The hotel offered all modern facilities, including a top restaurant, health and fitness bar and sports activities.

However, when David Brewer, the hotel's popular general manager who was widely known in the Caribbean, left last Christmas, it is believed the hotel's standards declined.

Under the financial restructuring plan currently being negotiated, the St Lucia Government is expected to invest some \$4 million in the hotel, with \$2 million from the Maldivian family and another \$2 million from a hotel operator, believed to be Hilton International.

Ladbroke, which owns Hilton International, said yesterday it was in talks with the hotel's owners and the St Lucia Government to take over the running of the hotel, with a planned reopening in the autumn. Although Hilton said it had not finalised plans for the hotel, it is likely to offer a four-star rather than a five-star service.

Jalousie's problems contrast sharply with the success of the Sandals Resorts on St Lucia which are full this month. Sandals St Lucia and the newly opened Sandals Halcyon Beach offer all-inclusive holidays for couples. Elaine Vaughan, Sandals' UK director of sales, said "the success of the all-inclusive concept is shown by the high occupancy and repeat guest ratio".

Row over Burma holidays

By TONY DAWE

A LEADING holiday company is flying in the face of mounting opposition to the military regime in Burma by placing full-page glossy advertisements for a series of journeys through the troubled country.

Politicians, pressure groups and even some tour operators have urged holidaymakers to boycott Burma in protest at the "evil regime" which has continued to rule the country despite the victory of the main opposition party, led by Aung San Suu Kyi, in democratic elections in 1990.

Critics claim slave labour is being used to develop tourist sites and the US Government is contemplating a call for a world boycott of tourism to Burma. But Voyages Jules Verne of London has not mentioned the controversy in its advertisements. Instead, it claims that "the happiness and serenity of the Burmese people radiates from within and this is Burma's greatest gift to visitors: the opportunity to interact with its people."

Alan Jones, of the company's marketing department, says: "We are aware of some people's opinion of the Burmese Government but we believe everyone has the right to choose whether to visit the country. Tourism is all about opening up countries and is one way of changing them. We were one of the first companies to take people to China when some argued it was not right to do so. Now tourists are going in huge numbers."

Mr Jones said Voyages Jules Verne is looking for groups of 30 for each of its 30 weekly trips and added that it had acquired the Government's blessing.

Last month a joint letter about human rights abuses in Burma was sent by eight British holiday companies serving the country to the hotels and tourism minister in Rangoon. It expressed concern



The Thatbyinnyu temple at Pagan, and (inset) Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the opposition to Burma's military regime

about reports of forced labour on tourism developments and of people being ordered to leave their homes because of new projects.

The letter added: "Travelers recently returned have told how their visit was spoiled by disruption to their itinerary, by restrictions on their movements and

by government harassment."

The letter resulted from a meeting at the House of Commons organised by Tourism Concern, attended by holiday company representatives and politicians. Patricia Barnett, Tourism Concern's director, said: "This is the first time tour operators have made statements on human rights

abuses related to tourism development... we are very pleased they are taking such issues on board."

Among the signatories was Philip Norrington of Exodus, who says: "We now tell prospective clients about the political situation in Burma and the human rights issues. There has been a drop in book-

ings and we shall probably run only three trips this year, compared with six last year. We try to ensure that our trips help the poor communities, but inevitably some money will go to the Government. We take the view, however, that isolating Burma would only increase the xenophobia of the generals."

TRAVEL NOTES

Moldova: a match too far?

BEFORE a ball has been kicked in the European Championship finals, which start at Wembley on Saturday, fans are being offered the chance to see England's first qualifying match in the World Cup finals in 1998.

The match is away against Moldova in September, but David Dryer Sports Tours believes enough supporters will want to see England's first game under Glenn Hoddle, the new manager, to justify the trip. The package includes return BA flights to Bucharest, onward flights with Moldavia Airways to Kishinev and three nights bed and breakfast in a hotel near the ground, all for £399.

Think small

One of Britain's smallest airlines is looking for air hostesses — but only anyone under 5ft 3in need apply. Cambridge-based Suckling Airways flies tiny Dornier aircraft on routes to Manchester, Norwich, Amsterdam and Ireland and anyone over that height would be too tall to stand in the cabin.

Cruising along

A ship originally destined to be a Russian minesweeper will tomorrow be named by the Duchess of Gloucester as a luxury cruise liner. The 12,000-ton Swan Hellenic's *Minerva* was converted from a Russian-built hull at Mariotti Shipyards in Genoa, Italy, and will be used for cultural cruises.

Pet hates

The things holidaying Britons hate most are mosquitoes, other British tourists and foreign food, according to a survey by Midland Bank. The survey also showed that nearly one in three people had suffered sunburn while away; almost one in five admitted to having had a holiday romance; and the things people missed were their own beds, followed by family and pets.

Vintage year

To the delight of wine-loving travellers to Spain, the Rioja of 1995, of which a record 217 million litres were produced, has just been officially adjudged "excellent". Official tastings of Rioja's Consejo Regulador de la Denominación de Origen Calificada, which oversees the region's vineyards and controls the quality of their wine, sipped their way through more than 3,000 different samples.

Sitting pretty

The Alexander the Great Hotel in the Cyprus resort of Paphos has banned the use of an early-morning beach towel to grab the best sunbed. Instead guests are issued with a ticket for a sun-bath.

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Jersey woos the wedding trade

By IAN MURRAY

JERSEY is to go into the marriage business to compete with Caribbean islands offering all-inclusive wedding and holiday packages. The increasingly popular wedding and honeymoon holiday package is often significantly cheaper than a traditional white wedding.

At present, only those able to take a three-week break can have a Jersey wedding, because a couple have to register and stay for 18 days before formally tying the knot. Legislation going through the island assembly, however, will cut the wait to two days for couples who make postal applications and complete all the paperwork before travelling there.

The new law, scheduled to be in force by the end of the year, will also help less organised couples who do not manage to send their application in by post. For them the waiting time after registering on the island will be cut to just ten days, enabling them to cram wedding and honeymoon into a fortnight.

Jersey is also moving up-market, having shed 5,000 of its cheaper bed and breakfast rooms over the past five years and encouraged the owners of the remaining 20,000 to improve facilities.

Hotels such as l'Horizon, facing the wide sands on St Brelade's Bay, or the Atlantic, where the manicured lawns stretch down to the sea, can compete with the best of the Caribbean can offer. The Sea Crest at Petit Port, winner of the island's good food festival award this year, does things with oysters and red mullet that any chef would envy.

The tides are so high on Jersey that the island increases in size from 45 to 63 square miles at the ebb. Within that small area are crammed attractions as varied as a butterfly farm, a steam museum, an underground German hospital, an orchid research foundation and vineyards.

A new system of "green lanes" on more remote roads slows traffic to 15mph, encouraging walkers and cyclists. The British are still the island's main visitors, although there are 120,000 French day-trippers and a growing number from further afield in Europe. The Norwegians, thanks to a recent screening of *Bergerac*, are among the most enthusiastic new arrivals but it could be a kind of homecoming for some. For their ancestors, the Norsemen, conquered the island's more than 1,500 years ago.

EU arguments put flights at risk, reports Harvey Elliott

European air safety fears

THE safety of passengers flying on European airlines is being put at risk because of a lack of co-operation among governments within the community, claims the outgoing head of Britain's Civil Aviation Authority.

Sir Christopher Chataway, who retired at the end of last week as head of the body responsible for the safety and maintenance of all British-registered aircraft, is calling for a new European-wide body with absolute powers to control all aspects of airline operations to be set up immediately.

The existing voluntary organisation, known as the Joint Aviation Authorities (JAA), is not working because of disagreements among individual member states, he says in a valedictory interview in *Travel News*.

"The whole area of safety is very worrying," he says. "The JAA has not proved up to the job of regulating operations and maintenance and therefore we have to have within Europe a new structure."

Unless Europe's airlines



Sir Christopher: worried

had a single safety code within which to operate, "flags-of-convenience" airlines could proliferate with standards of maintenance which were not of the same uniformly high level and whose pilots were forced to work "unsafe" hours.

"It has been impossible to form the agreements needed to ensure safety on an informal club basis," says Sir Christopher. "We now have to

PINKERTON'S EYE



A monthly column from the security and detection agency

LOW RISK

In China, muggings in the main cities, sexual harassment and crime on trains are increasing. Foreigners are now regular targets. The Free Papua Movement (OPM) separatists is reported to be targeting US citizens and businesses for hostage-taking and sabotage in Indonesia. All travellers are advised to stay in the larger towns. Tough economic times in Mexico and Venezuela have brought violent street protests. In Venezuela there has been a surge in crime in Caracas. In Mexico an increase in robbery, kidnap and murder, especially in Mexico City and Cuernavaca, has led to calls for the return of capital punishment.

MODERATE RISK

Rising crime rates in Bangladesh, particularly Dhaka and Chittagong, make it a moderate risk area. An increase in the use of weapons is reported. Violence is also likely to precede the parliamentary elections on June 12. PKK Leader Abdullah Ocalan has again threatened the tourist industry in Turkey although so far no attacks have materialised. Travel in the southeast is not recommended. The lead-up to the June 26 local elections in the volatile KwaZulu-Natal region of South Africa, which includes Durban, could be marred by violence.

HIGH RISK

On May 24 India issued a nationwide alert ordering increased security at airports, stations and bus depots after fatal bombings in Delhi and Rajasthan. A recent change in the Islamic penal code in Iran means the death penalty for anyone convicted of revealing to foreigners national classified information, including economic, political, scientific and social. Business travellers should be extremely cautious in eliciting such information.

EXTREME RISK

Algeria remains an extreme risk area, with car bombs and assassinations plus last month's murder of seven French monks. Burjumbura, the capital of Burundi, has been declared a battle zone.

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Law Report June 6 1996 Privy Council

Finance company entitled to recover advance from mortgagors

Goss v Chilcott

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Slynn, Lord Hoffmann and Lord Cooke of Thorndon (Judgment May 23)

By a claim in restitution, a finance company was entitled to recover from mortgagors the amount of an advance made to them which was secured by a mortgage over their property even though by reason of alteration to the mortgage instrument they had been discharged from liability thereunder.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council so held in dismissing an appeal by the appellants, Murray Stanley Goss and Jennifer Roseanne Goss, from the judgment of the Court of Appeal of New Zealand (1995) NZLR 263 allowing an appeal by the respondent, Laurence George Chilcott as liquidator of Central Acceptance Ltd, from Mr Justice Neeson in the High Court of New Zealand who had dismissed the respondent's action against the appellants.

Mr Christopher Walshaw, of the New Zealand Bar, for the appellants; Mr John Reardon, of the New Zealand Bar, for the respondent.

LORD GOFF said that the company had made an advance to the appellants secured by a mortgage.

The mortgage instrument was subsequently altered by a solicitor, Mr Haddon, in circumstances in which, on the authority of cases stretching back to *Pigott's Case* (1614) 11 Co Rep 26b, the appellants were discharged from liability under the instrument from the date of the alteration. The question was on what basis, if any, the company was entitled to recover the amount of the advance from the appellants.

Mr Haddon, a director of a small finance company, had put forward a proposal for a loan to the appellants. Mrs Goss was his sister. The proposal, which was agreed to, was for an advance of NZ\$30,000 for three months on the security of the appellants' property.

On May 6, 1987, a cheque for \$30,000 drawn on the company's account was paid to Haddon Marshall & Co for the credit of the mortgagors. The mortgage was executed and secured a principal sum of \$30,000 repayable on August 6, 1987, carrying interest payable on three dates.

Mr Goss's evidence was that Mr Haddon had told him that he wanted to borrow \$30,000 but as a director could not borrow from the company. Mr Haddon had asked him to give a mortgage over his property on the basis that Mr Haddon would repay the loan in three months and then have the security cancelled.

Only two repayments were made to the company in respect of the loan: \$914.25 on July 31, 1987, and \$2,625 on November 6, 1987. Both were appropriated to interest due.

Mr Goss said that in September, 1987, Mr Haddon had led him to believe that the loan had been repaid and the security cancelled. The company commenced proceedings against the appellants and Mr Justice Neeson reached a number of conclusions on the facts which were accepted by the Court of Appeal.

He held that there were two transactions: a loan by the company to the appellants, secured by a mortgage on the appellants' property, and a personal loan of the same sum by the appellants to Mr Haddon. He rejected a submission by the appellants that they had never received the money, which had been paid to Mr Haddon whom they had authorised to receive it.

He held that the mortgage instrument was in the possession of Mr Haddon at the time when it was altered; that the alteration of Mr Haddon at that time had to be held to have been the possession of the company.

He held that the company was unable to sue the appellants on the mortgage instrument and that its alternative claim for money had and received failed because there had been no failure of consideration for the advance, consideration having been furnished for it in the form of a valid registrable mortgage.

The Court of Appeal likewise rejected the company's claim under the mortgage instrument, but held it was entitled to rely simply on the advance, and an agreement to repay it in three months, together with an implied agreement to pay monthly interest.

They held that the company was entitled to recover the advance but not interest and gave judgment against the appellants for \$26,460.75, the capital sum of the advance, which was treated as having been repaid by the two payments of interest.

Mr Reardon felt unable to uphold the Court of Appeal's decision that the outstanding advance could be claimed as a debt notwithstanding the avoidance of the mortgage instrument, or that a proceeding oral agreement by the appellants to repay the advance survived the discharge of the mortgage from liability under the mortgage instrument.

His Lordships were unable to agree with Mr Justice Neeson's conclusion that the company could not succeed on its claim in restitution because there had been no total failure of consideration for the advance.

The advance was paid by the company to Haddon Marshall & Co, as solicitors. After execution of the mortgage instrument it was then available to the appellants but was in fact received by Mr Haddon, as agreed between him and the appellants.

In those circumstances the loan appeared to have been advanced to the appellants pursuant to the terms of the mortgage instrument, the consideration for the advance being expressed to be the personal covenants by the appellants to repay the advance upon those terms.

But the consideration, necessarily implicit if not explicit in every loan contract, was the consideration necessary for the formation of the contract; and, as Viscount Simon, Lord Chancellor, had observed in *Fairbairn Lawson Combe Barbour Ltd* [1943] AC 32, 48:

"When one is considering the law of consideration and of the quasi-contractual right to recover money on that ground, it is generally speaking, not the promise which is referred to as the consideration, but the performance of the promise... there are endless examples which show that money can be recovered, as for a complete failure of consideration, in cases where the promise was given but could not be fulfilled."

In the case of a loan of money any failure by the borrower to repay the loan, in whole or in part, by the due date, would ordinarily give rise to a claim in contract for repayment of the part of the loan which was then due. There would generally be no need to have recourse to a remedy in restitution.

But that course was not open to the company, because the appellants had been discharged from their obligations under the mortgage instrument and so the company had to seek recovery in restitution.

If the appellants had been discharged from liability when they had paid nothing by way of principal or interest, to the company there was no reason in principle why it should not be able to recover the amount of the advance on the ground that the money had been paid for a consideration which had failed: namely, the failure of the appellants to perform their contractual obligation to repay the loan, there being no suggestion of any illegality or other ground of policy which precluded recovery in restitution in such circumstances.

Although no part of the principal sum had been repaid, two instalments of interest had been paid and the question was whether they precluded recovery on the basis that the failure of consideration for the advance was not total. Their Lordships did not think so.

The function of the interest payments was to pay for the use of the capital sum over the period for which the loan was outstanding, which was separate and distinct from the obligation to repay the capital sum itself. It was both legitimate and appropriate for present purposes to consider the two separately.

Since it was unknown when the mortgage instrument was altered, it could not be known whether the interest payments had fallen due beforehand. If so, there would have been no failure of consid-

Tax payable when benefit is available

Templeton (Inspector of Taxes) v Jacobs

Before Mr Justice Jonathan Parker (Judgment May 22)

Liability to Schedule E income tax for benefits in kind provided by reason of a taxpayer's employment under section 154 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 did not arise until the time as the benefit became available to the taxpayer for his enjoyment.

Mr Justice Jonathan Parker so held in the Chancery Division when allowing an appeal by the Crown from a determination of a special commissioner (Mr T. H. K. Everett) that had reduced a Schedule E tax assessment raised on the taxpayer, Mr Mark S. Jacobs, for the year 1991-92.

The commissioner had held that the benefit, being an amount of £20,908 paid to building contractors for a loft conversion at the taxpayer's home, was available in the tax year in which the payment was made, and not during the year

in which the building work was completed and the conversion available for use.

Section 154 of the 1988 Act provides:

"(1) ... Where in any year a person is employed ... and ... by reason of his employment there is provided for him ... any benefit to which this section applies ... there is to be treated as an emolument of the employment, and accordingly chargeable to tax under Schedule E, an amount equal to ... the cash equivalent of the benefit."

Mr Timothy Brennan for the Crown; Mr Patrick Way for Mr Jacobs.

MR JUSTICE JONATHAN PARKER said that in January 1991 Mr Jacobs had accepted an offer of employment by City Electrical Factors Ltd to commence on May 1, 1991.

The employment required him to work from home and CEF had agreed to carry out a loft conversion at Mr Jacobs' home to provide him with an office.

In March 1991 CEF paid £20,158 to the builders for the conversion. The work began in July and the loft was available for use as an office from September 1991.

From April 1991 CEF paid Mr Jacobs rent at the rate of £4,800 for that part of his house used as his office. He had conceded that he had obtained a benefit from the installation of the conversion.

The commissioner found that a binding obligation had been entered into by Mr Jacobs' future employer, CEF, did everything which it had to do to fulfil its commitment before April 6, 1991. Prior to that point in time, there could be no relevant benefit to the taxpayer in respect of which a charge to tax could arise.

Arrangements made by an employer or steps taken by him were not the touchstones for deciding when the benefit had been provided.

The commissioner had erred in assessing the benefit to Mr Jacobs for the year 1991-92. Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Nabarro Nathanson.

Mr Brennan said that the commissioner's approach was incorrect. Mr Jacobs had no right in the building for the conversion. The work began in July and the loft was available for use as an office from September 1991.

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Battered woman syndrome defence

Regina v Thornton (Sara Elizabeth)

Before Lord Taylor of Goshford, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Hadden and Mrs Justice Ewlesworth (Judgment December 13)

A defendant suffering from battered woman syndrome could not rely on it as a defence to a charge of murder unless the jury considered that she had suffered or might have suffered a temporary loss of self-control at the time of the killing.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so stated when allowing an appeal by Sara Elizabeth Thornton against conviction at Birmingham Crown Court after a nine-day hearing before Mr Justice Jorj and a jury in February 1990 on a charge of murdering her drunken second husband after a stormy marriage of less than a year.

She had stabbed him when he was asleep, and she had a knife hidden in her handbag.

A previous appeal in 1991 was dismissed. The Home Secretary decided in 1993 not to refer the case back to the Court of Appeal but after further representations on her behalf the case was referred under section 17(1)(a) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968. On the hearing of the Home Secretary's reference fresh medical evidence about the appellant's personality disorder relevant to provocation was admitted.

An order was made prohibiting reporting of the judgment until after retrial at the Crown court.

Mr Michael Mansfield, QC, for the appellant; Mr Brian R. Escoffier, QC, for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said, reliance having been placed on the appellant's suffering from battered woman syndrome, the principle was that a defendant, even if suffering from that syndrome, could not succeed in relying on provocation unless the jury considered she suffered or might have suffered a temporary loss of self-control at the time of the killing.

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Luxembourg

Regina v Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Ex parte Hedley Lomas (Ireland) Ltd

Before G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, President and Judges C. N. Kikouris, D. A. O. Edwards, G. Hrach, G. F. Mancini, F. A. Schockweiler, J. C. Molinero de Almeida, P. J. G. Kapteyn, J. L. Murray, H. Ragnemalm and L. Sévon

Advocate General P. Léger (Opinion June 20, 1995) (Judgment May 23)

The refusal by one member state to grant a licence for the export to another member state of live sheep for slaughter, which constituted a quantitative restriction on exports in breach of article 34 of the EC Treaty, could not be justified, under article 30, by the first member state's belief that the

second member state was not complying with an EEC directive, relating to the protection of animals before slaughter.

A member state had an obligation to make good damage caused to an individual by a refusal to issue an export licence in breach of article 34 of the EC Treaty, if certain conditions were satisfied.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on a reference for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, by order of December 6, 1993.

Article 36 of the Treaty provides: "The provisions of articles 30 to 34 shall not preclude prohibitions or restrictions on ... exports ... justified on grounds of ... the protection of health and life of ... animals."

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held:

Council Directive 74/577/EEC of November 18, 1974 on stunning of animals before slaughter (OJ 1974 L316 p10) was intended to remove the disparities between the legislation of member states in the field of protection of animals which directly affected the functioning of the common market.

It also sought, in general, to avoid all forms of cruelty to animals and, as a first step, unnecessary suffering on the part of animals when being slaughtered. Articles 2 and 3 required member states to ensure the stunning, by appropriate approved methods, of certain animals for slaughter, including sheep.

The directive did not harmonise procedures for monitoring compliance with its provisions.

The directive was transposed in Spain in 1987 by a decree which reproduced in particular articles 1 and 2. It did not lay down any penalty for breach of its provisions.

Despite the adoption of that decree, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, by a circular, convinced, in particular on the basis of information obtained from the Spanish Society for the Protection of Animals, that a number of Spanish slaughterhouses were not complying with the rules in the directive, either because they did not have the necessary equipment for stunning animals or because the equipment was not being used correctly or at all.

Although it did not have sufficient evidence as to the overall position in Spanish slaughterhouses, the ministry formed the view that the information in its possession indicated a degree of non-compliance with the directive

such as to create a substantial risk that animals exported to Spain for slaughter would suffer treatment contrary to the directive.

Accordingly, between April 1990 and January 1993 the ministry systematically refused to issue licences for the export to Spain of live animals for slaughter.

After the United Kingdom and Spanish Governments had agreed measures to ensure that animals sent from the United Kingdom for immediate slaughter in Spain would be sent only to slaughterhouses which the Spanish authorities had confirmed as meeting Community requirements on animal welfare, the general ban was lifted with effect from January 1, 1993.

An application by Hedley Lomas in 1992 for an export licence for live sheep intended for slaughter in a specified Spanish slaughterhouse was refused, even though, according to information obtained by Hedley Lomas, that slaughterhouse had been approved since 1986 and was complying with Community directives on animal welfare, and the United Kingdom authorities did not have any evidence to the contrary.

Hedley Lomas brought proceedings seeking a declaration that the refusal of an export licence was contrary to article 34 of the Treaty, and damages.

The ministry did not deny that the refusal constituted a quantitative restriction on exports, but argued that it was justified under article 30.

The Divisional Court's first question concerned the issue of justification.

That question was to be answered against the factual background in the present case that the ministry's general refusal of export licences for Spain was based solely on the conviction that a certain number of Spanish slaughterhouses were not complying with Directive 74/577, and that there was a significant risk that animals exported to Spain would, on slaughter, undergo treatment contrary to the directive.

The protection of the health and life of animals related to article 36 constituted a fundamental requirement recognised by Community law.

However, recourse to that article was not possible where Community directives provided for harmonisation of the measures necessary to achieve the specific objective which would be furthered by reliance on that provision.

This exclusion of recourse to article 36 could not be affected by the fact that, in the present case, the directive did not lay down any Community procedure for monitoring compliance or any penalties in the event of breach of its provisions, since that simply meant that the member states were obliged, in accordance with articles 3 and 109 of the Treaty, to take all measures necessary to guarantee the application and effectiveness of Community law.

In that regard, the member states had to rely on trust in each other to carry out inspections on their respective territories.

A member state could not unilaterally adopt, on its own au-

thority, corrective or protective measures designed to obviate any breach by another member state of rules of Community law.

The Divisional Court also asked a question in relation to damages.

The court referred to its holding in *Joined Cases C-46/93 and C-48/93 Brasserie du Pêcheur SA v Federal Republic of Germany* (The Times March 7, 1996) 3 WLR 504, paragraph 51 that individuals had a right to reparation in the case of a breach of Community law attributable to a member state acting in a field in which it had a wide discretion to make legislative choices, where three conditions were met, and said that those three conditions were applicable in the present case.

With regard to the first condition, that the rule of law must be intended to confer rights on individuals, article 34, while imposing a prohibition on member states, also created rights for individuals which the national courts had to protect (Case 83/78 *Pig Marketing Board v Redmond* [1978] ECR 2347, paragraphs 60 and 67).

As to the second condition, that the member state must be sufficiently serious, where, at the time it

committed the infringement, the member state was not called on to make any legislative choice and had only considerably reduced, or even no, discretion, the mere infringement of Community law would be sufficient to establish the existence of a sufficiently serious breach.

In that respect, in the present case the United Kingdom was not even in a position to produce any proof of non-compliance with the directive by the particular slaughterhouse in question.

The third condition, that there must be a direct causal link between the breach of the obligation resting on the state and the damage sustained, was a matter for the national court to determine.

The court then referred to further requirements laid down in *Joined Cases C-6/90 and C-4/90 Francovich v Italian Republic* (The Times November 20, 1991) 12 ECR II-2667, paragraph 26, and *Brasserie du Pêcheur*.

On those grounds, the Court of Justice ruled:

1. Community law precluded a member state from invoking article 36 of the EC Treaty to justify a limitation of exports of goods to another member state on the sole ground that, according to the first

European Law Report

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FILM 1
Redford and Pfeiffer strike no sparks in the "newscaster comes good" drama of *Up Close & Personal*



FILM 2
Complex but brilliant. *The Confessional* is a superb debut movie from Robert Lepage

THE TIMES ARTS



FILM 3
... but Spike Lee disappoints with *Girl 6*, his loud and vacuous trip into the world of phone sex



FILM 4
... and *Vampire in Brooklyn*, with Eddie Murphy, falls uncertainly between comedy and horror

Talking heads on a road to nowhere

CINEMA: Geoff Brown sees two big Hollywood stars give birth to a bore in the weepie *Up Close & Personal*

In *Up Close & Personal* Michelle Pfeiffer, a Miami television station's new recruit, is stumbling through her first, and last, weather report, wearing oversized sunglasses and a yellow windbreaker. "She eats the lens!" newsroom boss Robert Redford purrs admiringly. In the space of a few seconds, a star is born. One is half surprised the movie is not actually called *A Star is Born*: so many of its dramatic tricks come from that Hollywood classic about a showbiz marriage and the young performer who eclipses her partner. Pfeiffer arrives in Miami gushing with ambition and dressed in screaming pink. As the two hours pass — and be warned, they pass slowly — she marries Redford, gains national recognition covering a prison riot, and changes her hair-style seven times. Redford, one of those saintly media types who believe in truth and justice, grows his protégée and then watches her run ahead. His own hair does not change once.

This kind of story might carry weight in America, where the personalities who deliver the news almost outline the news itself. The script, indeed, was suggested by the life of newscaster Jessica Savitch, who soared to the top with NBC before dying in a car accident in 1983. But in Britain, for all the razzle-dazzle director Jon Avnet brings to the re-creation of a TV studio, *Up Close & Personal* seems as tasty as last week's toast.

The stars, unfortunately, do not help. Individually, Pfeiffer and Redford offer assorted pleasures. Together, they strike no sparks, no matter how up close and personal they get. The 20-year age-gap plays some part; so does Redford's trundity. At 58 he is a little too old to be still playing twinkly-eyed romantic heroes, but he tries. He should take a leaf from Paul Newman's book, accept his age, and develop new acting skills to match.

When some theatre directors turn to the movies, they end up with celluloid stodge. Not Robert Lepage. Watching *The Confessional*, his first film, you can almost see the theatrical wizard grinning gleefully over the tricks cinema offers. One cut of the editor's scissors and a car bonnet becomes a coffin. Or the

screen fills with the distorted face of Lothaire Bluteau, peering through a goldfish bowl. Or time will shift from past to present in a single camera movement, eloquently fulfilling the narrator's remark about the past carrying the present "like a child on its shoulders".

Lepage's delight in his new toy is infectious: he makes you realise there are so many other ways of telling a story than proceeding from A to Z. *The Confessional*, a Canadian-British-French venture, begins at K, darts back to C, and never reaches Z at all. We start in 1989, with Bluteau's return from China to Quebec City for his father's funeral.

Up Close & Personal
Odeon Leicester Square
15, 126 mins
Love and clichés in the television newsroom
The Confessional
Lumiere, 15, 100 mins
Dazzling cinema debut for Robert Lepage

Girl 6
Warner West End, 18, 108 mins
Muddled Spike Lee comedy about phone sex
Vampire in Brooklyn
Plaza, 15, 102 mins
Eddie Murphy grows fangs
Now and Then
Odeon West End, PG, 102 mins
Cornball saga about girls growing up
Guiltrip
MGM Tottenham Court Road
15, 90 mins
Tense and memorable Irish drama

But before long we land in 1952, when the city receives another visitor, Alfred Hitchcock, and the crew of his film *I Confess*. Bluteau's aunt, 16 at the time, works in the prestidigitary used as a location. Pregnant, she confesses to a priest who, like Montgomery Clift in Hitchcock's film, is bound by the rules to keep her secret. Back in the present, the child of that union undertakes his own search for his father. Identity, truth, fact versus



"Individually, Pfeiffer and Redford offer assorted pleasures. Together, they strike no sparks, no matter how up close and personal they get"

fiction, clashing cultures: these are some of the themes Lepage weaves into his edifice.

Sometimes the complexity is baffling. Sometimes the film suffers from undue significance: do we really need reports of the Tiananmen Square massacre filtering through on the radio? But most times Lepage delights with his playful imagination. There is plenty of sly humour to punctuate the doom, gloom and Catholic guilt. Much stems from the presence of Hitchcock himself, played by look-alike Ron Burridge.

Lepage could teach a few other directors this week some lessons in visual control. Spike Lee, for example. *Girl 6* follows his usual practice of flinging different photographic styles and textures at the screen, mounting the camera on what seem to be roller-skates, and shifting without warning between reality and fantasy. But the point of this frenetic carnival is much less clear than usual.

There is not even much of a story. Instead we get a string of comic sketches about Theresa Randle's heroine, an aspiring black actress who abandons one audition when

asked to disrobe, but then finds employment giving phone sex.

Lee bombards us with so many sensations that it is impossible to isolate a moral message in Susan-Lori Parks's script: you need all your energy to keep pace with the men phoning in from cars or cockpits, the cameos by Quentin Tarantino and Madonna, or the bizarre pastiches of black stereotypes, from *Carmen Jones* to *The Jeffersons*. Simply entangling the dialogue from the soundtrack's songs (by Prince) is hard work enough. There certainly is no time to penetrate far inside *Girl 6*'s head.

Vampire in Brooklyn stars that shrinking violet Eddie Murphy. He co-produced, and developed the script with his two brothers. The wonder is that the film actually finds a good use for Murphy's preening ways: it makes him a vampire from the Caribbean, gives him golden eyes, and sets him loose in New York City seeking to perpetuate his kind. He looks very elegant, and has charisma to spare.

The news is not all good. *Vampire in Brooklyn* is a comic horror film, and once it fills more towards comedy it almost falls over. You

can't say the director has no funnybone: Wes Craven's the ghoulish joker who made *A Nightmare on Elm Street*. But he is powerless to prevent disaster when his star and script take a wrong turn.

Anyone nostalgic for those summer days in the tree-house in 1970 when they discovered boys and boobs and listened to the Jackson 5 may take special pleasure in watching *Now and Then*. The rest of us will find some comfort in the pleasant young cast, headed by Christina Ricci, but will groan at the script's reliance of clichés. Equally dispiriting is the prospect of these girls growing into the likes of Demi Moore and Rosie O'Donnell, who play them as adults. The film, directed by former choreographer Lezli Linka Glazer, is the maiden effort of Moore's Moving Pictures: it is to be hoped that later ventures will move rather better.

After Hollywood's attempts to entertain, you fall with relief upon *Guiltrip*, a terse Irish drama, original in form, disturbing in content. Gerard Stembridge, the writer and director, is experienced in theatre and TV, but new to cinema. He is no

master of visual composition: the camera sticks boringly close to the characters, following them hither and yon. But the story he tells about Liam, Tina and their fractious marriage is so involving you never pine for pretty pictures.

Liam (Andrew Connolly) is an army corporal. Quiet but dangerous, he expects his word to be obeyed. Their lives together leave Tina (Jasmine Russell) unfulfilled. At night Liam returns drunk to a furious row. Flashbacks then take us through their day and show the passions rising. We see Liam eyeing a saucy girl; we see Tina receiving the flattering attentions of Ronnie (Peter Hanly), the manager of the electronics store with a bottomless barrel of mindless chat.

These last scenes wriggle with sly comedy, but any smile gets wiped off our faces once characters get hurled against a cannon, kicked and maimed. Many film-makers come to Ireland to wallow in greenery and enjoy the studio facilities; they then fly home. But Stembridge lets Ireland shape his whole story, using modest resources to explore the terrors of a bad marriage in a country with no divorce laws.

SNAP VERDICT

'Like a pop video'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL
Daniel Edelstein, 19: Tacky and sentimental. An amalgamation of tragedy and success is incessantly drummed into the minds of unsuspecting viewers.

Martin Constantine, 20: By no means gripping stuff. Everything is highly polished, except the script, which at times is quite simply embarrassing. It is left to Redford and Pfeiffer to transform an inane drama into an ultimately entertaining film.

Donna Sharpe, 21: Not quite as bad as the nauseating poster implies, but nothing more than a slick Hollywood romantic drama.

Edward Dec, 18: Uninteresting but watchable. The love scenes were so dire, it became like a pop video. Perhaps its one redeeming feature is a fine supporting cast.

THE CONFESSIONAL
Daniel: Dark, confused and only vaguely comprehensible, this melodrama takes itself far too seriously.

Martin: A predictable plot is masked by superficial images and trite symbolism in what must be one of the most unnecessary films of the year.

Donna: A film of complexity and pretension rather than profundity. Kristin Scott-Thomas and Lothaire Bluteau are wasted.

Edward: Oh, it's another "meaningful" French film. And it's blinding. Slickly produced, this confusing movie really grabbed me. Added cred for the use of Portishead.

GIRL 6
Daniel: I was immediately taken in by its speed, but it becomes rather sanctimonious and dull. I was happy to see the final credits appear.

Martin: The cameos from the likes of Madonna and Quentin Tarantino are more than a little irritating, and the film over-indulges in sex talk.

Donna: Another rung on the downward ladder which Spike Lee has been treading ever since the brilliant *Do the Right Thing*. Misogyny and directorial ambivalence combine to ill effect.

Edward: The filming is inventive and very stylised, with surprisingly adept cameos from Tarantino and Madonna. I was intrigued all the way up to the quirky ending.

DEGAS: BEYOND IMPRESSIONISM — DAY TEN

Richard Cork concludes his guide to highlights of the National Gallery exhibition

Nobody knows precisely who posed for the ecstatic series of Russian Dancer pictures, but there can be no doubt about their eruptive dynamism. Unlike the ballet dancers, these women seem to be performing in the open air. They do not need backdrops: the exotic brilliance of their swirling skirts provides Degas with enough spectacle on their own. In picture after picture, he seems to circle the same cluster of women and present them from different angles.

Smaller studies in the series concentrate on single figures, enabling Degas to seize on the essence of their spirited movements. But in an image as ambitious as this

triumphant pastel, the figures are fused in a mass of organic colour. Placed against a bare field, they fling their limbs outwards with irresistible abandon. The wild flowers bedecking their hair give them a festive air, as if they are celebrating a successful harvest. But they also rejoice in their own youthful vivacity.

The increasingly infirm Degas revels in the dancers' supple movements. If he envies their gusto and stamina, he does not allow it to affect the carnival mood of this supremely joyful image.

• Degas: Beyond Impressionism is at the National Gallery until Aug 26 (tickets from First Call, 0171-420 0000)



"They do not need backdrops: the brilliance of their swirling skirts provides Degas with enough spectacle on their own": *Russian Dancers* (c.1899). Private collection, Canada

Marking the race card

RADIO

THE start of the European football championships on Saturday, which will doubtless include Xenophobia versus Jingoism (a game of two halves), is being preceded on Radio 5 Live by a ten-day season called *Race Around the UK*. The timing is appropriate for the nation's main sports network.

John Barnes of Liverpool appears in one of the best of the season's programmes, *I'm not an Uncle Tom*, tomorrow night (9.35pm). Various other programmes have highlighted the grotesque treatment meted out to black people in Britain by whites, but *I'm not an Uncle Tom* takes intra-black hatred as its theme.

Barnes is not only one of the most skilful English players, he is also among the most articulate. He crystallises the special difficulties that black sports people have in relation to other blacks by saying that they "walk a thin line" be-

tween acceptance in the wider, multiracial community and losing respect in the black one.

The sensitivity between black sports people and their community can be seen from the title, which is a quote by Frank Bruno. Upon winning the world heavyweight title last September, Bruno's first sentence into a microphone was not vaudeville but defensive. "I'm not an Uncle Tom, I'm not a sell-out."

That accusation had been made by his black American opponent because Bruno, with his chat-show bonhomie and his pantomime appearances, is thought to have crossed the line to which Barnes refers. If so, the treatment of Bruno by some blacks is still unreasonable. Ian Botham, another exponent of pantomime, is not said to have, let down white people.

What makes this programme more than a routine exposition of these matters is the attention it pays to Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Revisionist views suggest black people using the book as a source of insult are at best out of date.

Stowe's book, a bestseller in 1852 and never out of print, effectively began the dismantling of slavery by exposing its cruelty. More specifically, her portrayal of the hero as a man of dignity and loyalty is seen now as a celebration of virtues, even if that loyalty was to white slave-owners.

All this may seem a long way from the football starting this weekend. But the thugs about to descend on Wembley are the most visible manifestation of racism in this country. I hope that they have listened to 5 Live this week for more than football previews.

PETER BARNARD

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THE TIMES ARTS

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... while, on CD, Jane Eaglen impresses in a new version of Tosca sung in English



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Oval Office romance: Michael Douglas and Annette Bening in Rob Reiner's comedy, *The American President*

NEW ON VIDEO

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT
 CIC 15, 1995
 WHAT happens when the widowed President gets a girlfriend? Some gentle human comedy and some political digs, but not enough of either to sustain this lumbering, old-fashioned comedy romance directed by Rob Reiner. Two pleasing players, Michael Douglas and Annette Bening, help the time pass. Available to rent.

THE BATTLESHIP POTEMKIN

Titanic, PG, 1925
 THE authorities wanted films to commemorate the 1905 Russian Revolution. Eisenstein gave them a cinematic revolution, and a masterpiece. A sailors' mutiny over maggot-infested food is brought roaring back to life with a brave new style of visual composition and editing, best displayed in the massacre on the Odessa Steps, one of the most imitated and parodied sequences in film history. This video copy from a 16mm print is a little faded, but serviceable.

CHUNGKING EXPRESS

ICA Project, 12, 1994
 CULT director Wong Kar-wai's intoxicating ride through Hong Kong's bustling streets and neon. Two stories tell of love, loss and the loneliness. But the mood is not melancholic. Wong's bizarre sense of humour, hand-held camera and visual tricks create an infectious romp, with a jarkish spirit unseen since the glory days of the French New Wave. Tony Cheng is especially charming as the uniformed cop of the second story, while Faye Wang deserves instant stardom as the fast-food garnish who adores him.

A WALK IN THE CLOUDS

Fox Guild, PG, 1995
 ROMANTIC waddle, exasperating and amusing by turns, with Kearu Reeves as a soldier who returns from the Second World War to find a new life in California's vineyards. The plot once served a lyrical Italian film, *Four Steps in the Clouds*, made in 1942, but Alfonso Arau's Hollywood revisions turn the lyricism to bathos, while the images suggest a feature-length wine commercial. Spanish actress Alana Sanchez-Giljon, as the pregnant girl for whom Reeves masquerades as a husband, seems deserving of better things. Available to rent.

THE WHITE BALLOON

Electric, U, 1995
 ENTRANCINGLY simple Iranian film about a little girl's epic struggle to buy a goldfish. After almost losing her banknote to snake charmers, she sees

it blown down a pavement grating. Can it be extricated before the shop shuts? Jafar Panahi's first feature unfolds in real time, so we share the tension as the minutes pass and shopkeepers and passers-by offer help or obstruction. The parade of rough-edged humanity and Aida Mohamadzadeh's determined face haunt you long after the film ends.

GEOFF BROWN

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Marital bereavement retold; English Tosca; lost Sibelius uncovered

CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

Smetana/Borodin

String Quartets
 Decca 452 239-2***

TWENTY-FIVE minutes of soul-searching, precipitated by the onset of deafness, Smetana's string quartet *From My Life* opens eloquently with "the call of fate to take up life's struggle". The *Takara* Quartet, twice bereaved, once professionally and once personally, know something of what this music is about and give a passionate and newly clear-sighted performance of a much-recorded work.

The players leap high in a sinewy second-movement Polka, tinged with poignant melancholy, before Andras Fekes's cello leads the deeply searching, throbbing which is Smetana's own lament.

It serves as a showcase for Jane Eaglen in the title role. Her performance has a depth and variety which puts in the shade one or two of those who

in greater tranquility here, as Borodin, a keen amateur cellist himself, pays tender tribute to his own wife in the well-known album-leaf which is the *Notturno*. This is framed by a gently oscillating *Scherzo* and a finale cross-hatched by constantly changing textures.

OPERA

John Higgins

PUCCINI

Tosca
 Eaglen/O'Neill/Yurisch/
 Philharmonia/Parry
 Chandos CHAN 300(2)
 (2 CD)***

CHANDOS could be a little optimistic in printing the introduction to *Tosca* in four languages. This is Puccini in English, excellently articulated by the whole cast, and aimed principally at the home market.

It serves as a showcase for Jane Eaglen in the title role. Her performance has a depth and variety which puts in the shade one or two of those who

have recently essayed the role at Covent Garden. *Vissi d'arte* (here *Life has taught me*) may lack the last ounce of emotional despair, but elsewhere Eaglen has *Tosca's* full measure, from the jealousy of Act I to the strength for burying a table knife into Scarpia's ribs. The voice ebbs and flows with the score, quite girlish to begin with but a fully dramatic soprano when the nastiness erupts.

Gregory Yurisch as Scarpia, the beast of Rome, is content to be merely suave at the start so that he can rip when at home in the Palazzo Farnese with its private torture chamber. Act II is by far the most compelling of the three. Dennis O'Neill's Cavaradossi is properly defiant, but he always sounds better in Italian than in English and the role does not always lie well for him. The supporting cast is led by character by David Parry's conducting of the Philharmonia is almost too refined at the start, with many slow tempos, but he lets

the melodrama take over once the rack is turning and the knives are out.

A very good introduction for anyone just starting on Puccini.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

SIBELIUS

The Wood Nymph:
 Swanwhite: A Lonely
 Ski-Trail
 Lahli Symphony Orchestra/
 Vanska
 BIS-CD-315**

CONSIDERABLE media interest has surrounded the release of this disc, the latest in the Complete Sibelius Edition from BIS, featuring the world premiere recording of the Finnish composer's tone poem *The Wood Nymph*. The piece was written in 1894, making it not a student work but one contemporary with the *Kulervo* Symphony and the First Symphony in 1899. *The Wood*

Nymph has been unknown to all but Sibelius experts for a century. Making use of Sibelius's familiar technique of climactic build-ups over a pedal-point, yet without the succinctness of the mature master, it is both a charming and an intriguing discovery.

Also included on the disc is a melodrama on the same subject, evocatively narrated by Lasse Pöysti with piano, two horns and strings — an equally fascinating piece and similarly recorded for the first time. So, too, is the original 14-movement suite by Sibelius for Strindberg's play *Swanwhite*. The final work is Sibelius's own orchestral version of a piano piece written in 1925 to accompany a recitation of Gripenberg's poem *A Lonely Ski-Trail*.

Osmo Vänskä is the sympathetic interpreter of the four hitherto unknown Sibelius works on this delightful disc.

* Worth hearing
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AMASSORS



■ OPERA 1

How I shall stage Verdi for Covent Garden: Luc Bondy lifts the curtain on his *Don Carlos*



■ OPERA 2

Carmen out of doors: at Holland Park, Bizet's tunes just manage to defeat the passing jumbos

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ THEATRE

The ubiquitous Jane Austen arrives in Chichester, with a staging of *Mansfield Park*



■ TOMORROW

Rolling on to new musical territories: the extra-mural activities of Charlie Watts

OPERA: John Higgins talks to director Luc Bondy about bringing *Don Carlos* to Covent Garden; plus Bizet in the park

Why we refresh the bits of Verdi that others cut

Only the English horse has been sacked. The production of *Don Carlos*, which opens Covent Garden's Verdi Festival on Tuesday, carries substantially the same cast it had when playing to all-round acclaim and packed houses at the Châtelet in Paris in early spring. The roster of singers, led by Roberto Alagna in the title role and Thomas Hampson as Posa, has a strength recalling the great Visconti *Carlos* at the Royal Opera in 1958. But the home-bred steed in Act I which carries off Elisabeth de Valois (Kari Mänttä) to meet her future husband, Philip II of Spain, has been replaced on grounds of unreliability. Luc Bondy, in London supervising his Paris staging, has recalled the white charger (plus handler) who behaved immaculately at the Châtelet. Will equus need an Equity card?

Carlos is Bondy's first excursion into Italian opera. Or rather French opera. This is the five-act Paris version, with a number of traditional cuts restored and a good deal of new light thrown on a work which now bids to be Verdi's grandest opera and, some would argue, his most complex. Bondy admits that it was the lure of doing something new which made him accept an assignment outside his normal operatic paths of Mozart and Strauss.

"Patrice Chéreau once said that staging opera can be lazy work for a director if you are content with putting on what is there already. But our *Carlos* is in part a reconstruction, using some of the recent discoveries by musicologists of what was cut by Verdi before the Paris first night. The most important comes after the death of Posa, the so-called *Lacrymosa* scene, in which Philip and Carlos confront one another. Verdi reused the music, of course, in the *Requiem*. But without it the audience cannot understand fully that the father has taken everything from his son: first Elisabeth, the wife he wanted, and now his best friend.

"Equally, *Carlos* must have the opening Fontainebleau act. Carlos and Elisabeth fall instantly in love, the only time in the opera that we see *la jeunesse en amour*, the key to much that follows. If La Scala had invited me to do the four-act Italian version, I would have had to say no. Opening *Carlos* in the monastery of San Yuste is totally unsexy." Loneliness in *Carlos* was one of the themes which attracted Bondy. He handled it superbly in Richard Strauss's *Salome* at Covent Garden a year ago in a production so mesmeric it made the Coliseum's recent effort look tame.

"There is a great deal of isolation

in *Carlos*. Elisabeth is in essence a French aristocrat living in exile. Posa is a loner because of his ideological beliefs. I have been criticised for giving Tom [Hampson] long hair and a wild-eyed look, but I see him as half a Renaissance figure and half a Dostoevskian zealot, from *The Possessed* perhaps. Carlos's admiration for him has an unstated homoerotic content. Most isolated of all is King Philip, kept apart from others by his rank."

Bondy illustrates Philip's long



How can you have people burnt on stage when a minute later everyone is applauding?

LUC BONDY

Act IV meditation. *Elle ne m'aime pas*, by having Elisabeth alone in bed on stage. "This was a deliberate attempt to overcome the problem always carried by big arias which almost everyone knows. The music is very familiar, but what about the content? Very unfamiliar to many, whatever they may say. At times like these, explanation is necessary."

Approaching 50, Bondy is a wiry, energetic figure, bubbling with ideas. He is forthright, very unstarry-eyed and ready to concede

that *Carlos* is not all gold. "The auto-da-fé scene is almost impossible. Musically it is terrible and how can you have all those people being burnt on stage when one minute later the curtain comes down and everyone bursts into applause. I have been accused of not liking spectacle. In part that is true: if it is spelt out, then it is boring. It has to be implied. I am not keen on auto-da-fé."

The close of the opera is also unsatisfactory. Who is this grandfather, Charles V, who takes Carlos into his arms? How does he differ from Philip II? Verdi's librettists let him down here, and for once he did not pull them up. He needed a Shakespeare to provide a presence as potent as the Ghost in *Hamlet*.

Bondy was born in Switzerland but his reputation was established first in Germany and notably at the Schaubühne in Berlin during the 1980s. There he learnt much from Peter Stein — "a rare example of practitioner, intellectual and teacher, one of the few men of the theatre ready to hand down his knowledge". Bondy introduced the Schaubühne to the work of Botho Strauss, an author with whom he has been much associated. When Stein left in 1985, Bondy was his natural successor, but he did not stay long. "All was running so well that there was nothing left to do."

Sleep is not in Bondy's nature. In between *Don Carlos* in Paris and Tuesday night in London he has been closeted in Normandy co-scripting with Françoise Sagan a film of Maupassant's *Bel-Ami*, which he will start shooting next year. "I'm fascinated by this 'hero' whose career takes off with scarcely an obstacle in his way. The faster he rises the colder he becomes. Quite relevant for the 1990s?"

After the Paris *Carlos*, Bondy announced that he had had enough of opera for the time being. He has rethought that, while being reluctant to submit to its timetable, which ties up directors years ahead. He has his eye on Janáček's *Káťa Kabanová* — no spectacle — which will move him back halfway in the direction of *Lulu* and *Wozzeck*, where his operatic career began under pressure from Anja Silja and Christoph von Dohnányi, his later partners in *Salome*. And he is working with the composer Philippe Boesmans on an opera tentatively called *The Jealousy of Leontes*, based on *A Winter's Tale*.

More problems with the supernatural when Hermonie's statue comes back to life?

"No. Not the supernatural. She has been alive all the time. And anyhow it's Shakespeare."

Don Carlos opens at the Royal Opera House (0171-304 4000) on Tuesday



Give the man a cigar: both Antoni Garfield Henry as Don José and Klara Uleman in the title role shine in European Chamber Opera's production of Bizet's *Carmen* in Holland Park, west London

Smoke gets in your ears

THE Regent's Park theatre season is already up and running, and now it is time for opera in Holland Park, launched on Tuesday by European Chamber Opera's production of *Carmen* with a little competition from police sirens, jumbo jets, peacocks and party-goers in the property next door. Bizet won, by a short head.

Conductors either know how this score should go or — the list is long, starting with Karajan — they do not. David Gibson falls happily into the first category: brisk speeds, crisp sound coaxed from a small but willing orchestra (timpanist gamely doubling harp-on-synthesizer) and the ability to cope calmly with one or two accidents, mostly in

Carmen
Holland Park Theatre

the Guiraud recitatives. Mercifully, you do not hear these often nowadays, and it is salutary to be reminded how ghastly they are. The opera was sung in clear French, though some of the vowel sounds were decidedly personal.

Terry John Bates's production, in minimal decor and contemporary costumes by Liz Cooke, is straightforward and well-organised, with three really good fights. Those who derive innocent pleasure from watching nice English gels pretending to be sinky Iberians in their undies will enjoy the evening. A full-scale procession in the last act is beyond the resources of the company, and substituting a Peter Brook-style ritual for Escamillo is a neat solution, but putting the chorus off-stage is a bad idea: suddenly there were two performances about three seconds apart.

Gibson and Bates certainly allowed their soloists to shine, and two should shine ever more brightly in the future. Klara Uleman has a perfect Carmen voice, warm, husky and absolutely steady; she phrases with real insight and has good French. Antoni Garfield Henry (José) is very experienced in musicals and straight theatre but made his operatic debut only last year (Broomhill, Luigi in *Tabarro*). He has a heroic tenor of enormous potential and, properly nurtured, could go far. Paula Bort, the homely Micaela, made little attempt to disguise a preference for her tempos rather than the conductor's. Jeffrey Carl was the preening Escamillo.

Since the first night was for an invited audience, the sound engineers (uncredited) felt free to experiment. I can tell them that the first act was very good, the sound in the second simply intolerable, with amplification horribly distorting the singers' voices, and the rest more or less bearable, though in the Holland Park Theatre neither this cast nor Bizet have any need of artificial aids.

RODNEY MILNES

A little goose in need of some sauce

First, a confession. When I tried reading this novel some years ago, I gave up about two thirds of the way through because I could not endure the company of meekly mousy Fanny Price for one more page. So until seeing this bold and — what to call it? — inventive adaptation by Willis Hall I had no idea what happened to the little goose after she departed, misunderstood by all, from Sir Thomas Bertram's stately Northamptonshire seat. Would the man she shyly, secretly, silently loves (Sir T's son, Edmund) continue to think he wants to marry cunning, cool, calculating Mary Crawford? How would Jane Austen contrive to bring the booby off with the girl who has worshipped him ever since she arrived at Mansfield Park as a ten-year-old all-but-orphan Fanny?

In Michael Rudman's breezy production, his first work here since giving up the job of artistic director in 1990, Lucy Scott makes a worthy try at turning the heroine from goose to human, though the task is probably impossible. Hall makes many changes to the novel, and also gives Fanny a couple of tart rejoinders when Edmund's tactless praise of Mary really gets up her nose. Even I could tell that these were way out of character, as though a shrinking violet had suddenly leapt from

THEATRE Mansfield Park Chichester

the ground to bite the boot that crushed it.

When presenting the sweet-natured, good, uncomplaining, honest and scrupulous 99.9 per cent of Fanny's character, Scott manages to keep priggishness at a low level. She moves well, and charmingly greets her midshipman brother with a cry of delight. But Fanny's propriety is as difficult to take on the stage as on the page, and in one respect is open to serious confusion.

This concerns the crucial event in the book when the young Bertrams decide to put on a romantic play while Sir Thomas (Tony Britton, grave and serious) is away. The rehearsals bring susceptible persons disconcertingly close to one another and this forwards the plot, but the role-playing is also a metaphor for emotional falseness. Fanny's excessive agitation at the prospect of acting leads one to think, "Oh, here she goes again," and the wider reference passes unnoticed.

Rudman's production incorporates a fair bit of dancing, introducing the four young Bertrams by having them bound onto the stage, over the sofa and away. Necessary



Parliffe: Lisa Goddard and Tony Britton in Michael Rudman's breezy *Mansfield Park*

information that even Hall cannot turn into dialogue is spoken by three servants, though only Clive Kneller's Harkness brings out the dry wit of the comments on leisure life. Poppy Miller subtly understates the amorality of Mary; Jay Villiers is an amusingly off-like Rushworth.

The country-house set designed by Simon Higlett has charm, and Rudman's marshalling of his characters is deft but there is no disputing the thinness of the second half. Disasters rock the family but are poorly dramatised, so that the inevitable happy union, after a snappy comment from

Scott to Mark Jax's slow-witted Edmund, really is an anticlimax. Sir Thomas's recognition of his faults as an educator, spelling out for the dimmest reader the novel's moral purpose, never gets a mention.

JEREMY KINGSTON

CONCERT: A Thea Musgrave premiere in Scotland

Burns night songs

A POSTER on the road outside Dumfries confirms that there is indeed an "Arts Festival 1996," the newly pasted-on "6" making it seem all the more immediate. In the town itself early-evening entertainment is restricted to an inexplicable traffic jam by the river and a choice between Indian and Chinese take-away; the only place to escape the rain, it seems, is the coffee shop in a Safeways big enough to accommodate an orchestra and a sizeable audience.

In fact, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra's concert is just out of town in the Easterbrook Hall — turn off the main road at St Michael's Church and the Burns Mausoleum — in what turns out to be a splendidly landscaped mental hospital. Unlikely though it seems, it has to be the right place because Thea Musgrave is there already with her husband and a representative from Novello carrying scores of the Burns settings commissioned (before its embarrassing collapse) by the First Burns International Festival and about to be introduced to the world as the principal feature of the 17th Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival.

Though inappropriately



Musgrave has revived her "Scottish heritage"

titled for the season, Musgrave's *Songs for a Winter's Evening* are most appealing, and well written for the Dumfries occasion. Resident in America for more than 20 years now, the composer had, she says, "to revive my Scottish heritage". She has done so with such effect that the music reverberates with echoes of melody of the sort which inspired Burns's poetry. In the atmosphere it creates and in the sentiment it displays, it recalls the *Chans d'Auvergne*,

even though the idiom is obviously very different and Musgrave's use of traditional tunes is more allusive than direct: they are as likely to be woven, more or less fragmentarily, into the orchestral texture as poised on the vocal line. Moreover, unlike Canteloube's compilation, the seven songs are arranged as a cycle — covering a lifetime from *I am my mammy's de bairn* to *John Anderson my jo*. John and rounded off with a subtle recall of the opening music towards the end.

The familiarity of the material, though reassuring to the audience, does not make the work easy to sing, since the vocal line so often veers away from the natural inflection and the expected harmony. The soloist Marie McLaughlin and the conductor Joseph Swensen had not solved all the problems. But, awkward though the performance occasionally was, the affectionate quality of the score — in the highly lyrical *Summer's a pleasant time*, for example, or the delightful scherzando duet between soprano and piccolo in *O whistle an I'll come to ye* — was everywhere in unmistakable evidence.

GERALD LARNER

مكتبة الأمل

Michèle Roberts on the genteel world of Anita Brookner, where still surfaces hardly betray the emotional turmoil beneath them

This new novel by Anita Brookner will probably delight her fans. Not only is its prose as impeccable and bandbox-crisp as ever, but its themes of unrequited love and discreet melancholia are those Brookner has made quintessentially her own. The very landscape evokes that of *Hotel du Lac*, her Booker winner, with its sleepy spa on the Franco-Swiss border, its "combination of dull weather and grave silence, the thin white mist that so often descends without warning and seems to lay delicate fingers on the skin of one's face".

create such havoc in the lives of those around her.

Anita Brookner's classic territory, the comfortable well-furnished London flats of well-behaved, well-meaning, well-off, bourgeois people who are cosmopolitan though emotionally reserved, is pooled in this new novel with instantly recognisable characters.

The awful Angela, who ends up marrying Alan, is summed up and dispatched by her prim blouse and pie-crust collar. Polish Jenny has "broken feet" which suggest to Alan's family that her survival methods abroad have been less than scrupulously genteel. Sarah's flatmate Berthe has carelessly tossed hair and "the near-cockney accent of the upper-class English girl". There are two splendid aunts who live in the country, one or two adulterous solicitors, a sharply observed bachelor connoisseur called Aubrey.

ALTERED STATES
By Anita Brookner
Cape, £14.99
ISBN 0 224 04282 3

All these people dance to the music of Brookner's spine in an endless succession of drinks parties, where shafts of lust or cruelty are concealed by the proffering of plates of pinwheel sandwiches and petits fours. Creating atmosphere is one of Brookner's gifts, and she does it superbly. The details are precise, immaculate, telling. As poor Alan drifts towards his tragedy, what you remember is the correctness of his raincoat and walking-shoes, his appreciation of roast chicken and lemon tart.

Anita Brookner's novels remind me of the work of Jean Rhys, with its repeated insistence of the power



Brookner: sharply observed

of sex, or a badly chosen lover, to blight a life for ever. Like Rhys, Brookner has described a kind of mourning close to masochism which has traditionally been asso-

ciated with a particular type of femininity, making its effects all the more powerful because they are never explained, only recorded. Brookner's early novels of blighted female hopes dished out the blame fair and square, apportioning it between selfish men and equally selfish females, go-getting Ugly Sisters to the heroine's long-suffering Cinderella.

In her recent books, Brookner has allowed men, too, to have their tortured inner lives, and with Alan Sherwood, writhing helplessly on the rack Sarah invites him to occupy, she has produced her most "feminine" hero yet. Kind and decent he may be, but Alan lacks savvy. Summoning Sarah to a night of passion at the Hotel George V in Paris, he forgets to phone ahead and book a room. Sarah doesn't show, and who can blame her? Alan spends the night tramping the rainy boulevards,

losing both the girl's and our sympathy.

This novel pretends to be a work of realism, but its structures are closer to fairy-tale. Like D. H. Lawrence, Brookner is writing about sex in order to express an elegiac lament for the loss of a nicer, earlier world, in which women supposedly did not hunt the pleasures of orgasm and money as ruthlessly as men, a world in which married women (middle-class ones, anyway) did not earn money at all and the NHS kept you in hospital as long as necessary.

Brookner is a fierce moralist, caricaturing her hates and putting her loves into thoughtful perspective. The novel works best when she is not explaining too much in order to drive her points home, which indicates a curious lack of self-confidence in such an experienced writer.

Alan, recounting his glum tale of loss and deceit and betrayal, is as fond of summing up as judge, as eloquent in his own defence as he is long-winded for the prosecution. After recounting a scene in which action is presented dramatically through dialogue, he has an irritating tendency to point out what he feels has just happened, thus preventing our attempts to invent our own interpretation.

He spends several pages explaining his views of Angela's psychological make-up, just in case we have drawn a different conclusion. He goes over and over his obsession with Sarah. This is not necessary in a novel as rich in descriptive detail, mood and idiom as this one. The effect is to make Alan less credible as a male character. A novel must create the illusion that its characters are real, at least if it is not a self-declared Post-Modern set of voices. Alan, alone and palely loitering, seems increasingly to express purely feminine pain and despair.

Conscience caught

Christopher Hitchens

LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR
A Story of War
By Peter Maass
Penguin, £10
ISBN 0 14 056 693 9

I can remember when I first heard the tale, I was in Sarajevo at the time. A man from a Balkan "prison camp" — so called even though it had been set up by no government and was obliged to no recognised authority nor convention — claimed that he had been forced to bite off another man's genitals.

Sarajevo in those days could expand your willingness to believe anything. But oh come on, I thought. Atrocious propaganda is cheap. You hear the same sorts of story every time: like those soldiers playing football with the heads of children. And then I met one second-hand witness, and then another. And then I thought, who would claim to have done such a thing, if he had not?

Peter Maass went a bit further. He interviewed the man who had said he'd actually seen it. He realised that the man had no special interest in convincing people of this. He made up his mind about the "incident" in that fashion. He inclined me to believe him.

To pass any time in this reporter's company is to be sure of him in this respect. He kept on finding things, and nothing things, that made him feel like the anonymous figure in Munch's painting of *The Scream*. And yet there is nothing dire or pornographic



Representative of the international community: a British soldier with the UN flag in the ghostly Sarajevo landscape, 1994

in his narrative. He tried his level best to cover the implication of Yugoslavia according to the standards of what might be called *Washington Post* objectivity. And he found that this wouldn't quite serve. But, as far as might be possible, he

kept applying his basic training to the task in hand. The resulting tension makes for a strong book.

Mr Maass sipped full of other horrors — which I will spare you — during his tour of duty, but he came up against a

reportorial "conflict of interest" that was much more morally exhausting than the task of keeping score between the so-called warring factions.

Like many people, he found it null and tedious to continue the standard feed about endlessly homicidal tribalism. He met many people who lived their lives without becoming Fascists or sadists, and he sets down their account with the same precision that he gives to the tales from the crypt. He became impelled to decide for himself whether all these "factions" were really equivalent. And he had to ask himself if the United States was conceivably a moral agent in what he

no longer saw as a quagmire. As far as was possible, I tried to read this book as if I could not guess the outcome of either dilemma. Should you desire to make up your mind, even at this rather advanced stage, you should choose to follow not Maass's account of external events but his diary of internal record-keeping. There is an active conscience at work, which is more than can be said for the ghost-like presence, in these pages, of what was once called "the international community".

Christopher Hitchens writes the *Fin de Siècle* column for *Vanity Fair*

Down from Olympus

John Gribbin

EINSTEIN
A Life

By Denis Brian
John Wiley, £18.99
ISBN 0 471 11459 6

Denis Brian has gone halfway to producing a good book about Albert Einstein, having achieved the remarkable feat of telling the story of Einstein's life with only passing reference to his science. Like other recent biographers, Brian draws on material from the Einstein archives which has been released only in the past few years, and sheds new light on his personal life, in particular his relationship with his first wife, Mileva. It is right and proper to give this material precedence, precisely because it was not publicly available for so long. But the only reason anyone is interested in Einstein's personal life, such as the fact that he fathered an illegitimate child, is because of his fame as a scientist.

Without the science, the life is curiously lacking in context. Like a biography of Gary Lineker which made only passing mention of the fact that he played football. This is especially true because, of all scientists, Einstein was the one who lived and breathed science, pushing personal relationships into the background to make room for his work — unlike, say, Richard Feynman, who led a colourful personal life alongside his science.

There is, though, much to enjoy in Brian's book, especially if you are already *au fait* with Einstein's scientific achievements, and can fill in the gaps for yourself.

He provides the best account I have seen of Einstein's early life and the romance with Mileva, a fellow student at the Zurich Polytechnic, while the years when Einstein worked at the Patent Office in Bern and discussed physics in his spare time with friends in the self-styled "Olympian Academy" come across as an idyllic time of youthful optimism and enthusiasm for life.

But we get no understanding of why it was Einstein, not one of the other "Olympians", who came up with the special theory of relativity and several other key ideas in 1905, nor do we learn how those seemingly diverse pieces of work actually fit together.

Ten years later, with Einstein separated from Mileva and living in Berlin on his



Einstein with Mileva and their son, Hans Albert (1904)

own, working intensively on his general theory of relativity. We get a superb insight into the balance between his science and the rest of his life with the image of him boiling an egg in a pan of soup to save time. Stuffing both down his throat as quickly as possible to provide the fuel he needed in keeping working, and suffering terrible bouts of indigestion.

But when Brian wants to tell us how important the general theory is, he can only fall back on quotes from Banesh Hoff-

man, who wrote an excellent biography of Einstein two decades ago. We only get the merest (and incomplete) mention of Einstein's great contributions to the development of quantum physics in the 1920s, but we get a detailed account of his travels to the United States and his meeting with Charlie Chaplin.

Less than halfway through the book, Einstein has reached the age of 50. All of his great work is behind him, and he has settled into a mundane

routine. He did only two interesting things after 1929. One was to write to President Roosevelt suggesting the need for research into atomic weapons. The other was to turn down the offer of the presidency of Israel.

Yet in Brian's account, the years 1929-55 occupy much more space than the years 1879-1929. Most of that space would have been better devoted to explaining Einstein's science. One wonders just what kind of reader the author has in mind when he explains, for example, that Winston Churchill was "an influential Conservative Member of Parliament". The obvious question to ask of the book, if it is still correct to do so in these days of BSE scares, is "where's the beef?" The answer is that you'll have to find that somewhere else, perhaps in Hoffmann's *Albert Einstein* or the excellent scientific biography by Abraham Pais. *Subtle is the Lord*.

Dr John Gribbin is co-author (with Michael White) of *Einstein: A Life in Science*, published by Simon & Schuster

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PURPLE HEATHER



May 1996: Elie Wiesel (centre) with Gitta Sereny and Leon Greenman (left), a fellow Holocaust survivor, at an address organised by Jewish Care

When Adolf Eichmann entered Hungary in the wake of the German army in March 1944, more than five million Jews had already been murdered. His aim was to destroy Hungarian Jewry before the Red Army entered Hungary. More than half a million Hungarian Jews, deported to Auschwitz at the most rapid rate imaginable, were murdered on arrival. Those who were deported with them, and survived, are eye-witnesses to a grotesque final act of the Holocaust.

Elie Wiesel is among those survivors. He has told part of this story before, but here he tells it as powerfully as ever, "and will tell it again", he writes, "hoping to find in it some hidden truth, some vague hope of salvation".

As the train taking the Jews from his home town of Sighet drew near to Auschwitz, his mother told him, as the possibility arose that the family might be separated there: "We'll meet again at home as soon as the war is over." Then, of his arrival at the notorious platform where Dr Mengele made his selections of who should live (for a while at least) and who should die, Elie Wiesel writes: "Nothing in the world could separate us. The entire German army could not take my little sister from me. Then a curt order was issued — men on one side, women on the other — and that was that." His little sister, his older sisters, his grandmother and his mother were taken away. They were gone "before I could tell my mother goodbye, before I could kiss her hand and beg her forgiveness for the wrongs I must have done her".

Elie Wiesel's father survived with him, until Buchenwald, where he died. "It was the darkest day of my life, a day heavy with meaning. I was weak and sick myself. Though I ached to help him, I did not know how." There are few more poignant pieces of writing in what is now called Holocaust literature than the son's description of his father's death, a mere two pages which encapsulate an eternity of suffering. "Whenever I think of him," the son writes, "I relive his agony, and a knot forms in my chest. I feel myself

The story that offers hope of salvation

Martin Gilbert is inspired by the journey of a man who brings Jewish history to life

becoming an orphan. Yes, you can be orphaned more than once, no matter how old you are. And every time is the first time."

The power of this book is all the greater because it describes, not only the destruction of Jewish lives but the life that was destroyed — the prewar life of sub-Carpathian Jewry. Elie Wiesel also tells of his own life after the war, of his journalist days, his early writings, and his return to Sighet. One of his most important postwar journeys was to the Soviet Union at a time when Soviet Jews were isolated and afraid, unable to leave and unable to live as Jews. From the moment of that visit, Elie Wiesel became the champion of the Jews trapped in the Soviet Union, and he remained their champion until, less than a decade ago, the gates were opened.

ALL RIVERS
RUN TO
THE SEA
Memoirs, Volume
1, 1928-69
By Elie Wiesel
HarperCollins, £20
ISBN 0 00 25563 1

I remember in 1985 being approached in Moscow by the wife of a Jew who was in deep trouble with the Soviet authorities. She had travelled overnight from the Uralis, at some risk to herself and at considerable risk to her husband. She had one request: ask Elie Wiesel to write something about my husband. The couple were convinced that publicity alone could open the gates of their prison, and that Elie Wiesel's was the pen that could be the most effective. As soon as I was able to transmit this message, Elie Wiesel put pen to paper, and did so in the most widely circulated of all American newspapers. Several years later, when this couple were in London, they said that even their taskmasters had learnt of that article and, for all their anger at it, had treated them less harshly after that.

There are many vignettes in this book, for, like all the great Jewish story tellers whom Elie Wiesel loves, including the religious sages, he has a gift of narrative. At the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem, he looked at the very "ordinary man" in the glass cage, and thought that he remembered him. "I knew that he had been in Sighet to supervise the deportation, and I wondered whether he was the man I had seen at the station, visibly saddened because there were no more convoys to send out of this town now emptied of Jews."

Elie Wiesel was back in Jerusalem seven years later when the divided city was caught up in the Six Day War, and the barriers came down. "Do you know how we managed to defeat the enemy? Six million Jewish souls prayed for us," an old man next to him murmured, almost to himself.

In the diary that he wrote (in Yiddish) during the Six Day War, Elie Wiesel recalled his days at religious school in the Carpathians — how "my friends and I would let our imagination soar and allow it to lead us through secret tunnels buried in the Carpathians, to the land of Israel. It would be enough to pronounce a 'Name' and invisible gates would open before us. And then, at once, persecution, hatred and fear would end. Master of the Universe, we asked, please send us an emissary to reveal this holy, all-powerful 'Name' to us. But, sadly, no emissary ever appeared to enlighten us."

There are parts of this book that read like a novel by Isaac Bashevis Singer (who wrote for the same New York Yiddish paper for which Wiesel wrote, and learnt his writer's trade). Other parts are almost mystical; yet others are intensely personal. Through one man's journey, a wide swath of recent Jewish history comes moving to life, and even with all its horrors, it is an uplifting tale.

Sir Martin Gilbert's book, *The Holocaust: The Jewish Tragedy*, is published in paperback by Fontana Press

Sleep's alchemy

Elaine Feinstein

THE DREAM
MISTRESS

By Jenny Diski
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £15.99
ISBN 0 297 81709 4

This is a profoundly disturbing novel, written with Diski's usual acuity, whose insights reflect an intelligence well aware of its own vulnerability. It is a novel about the fear of loneliness, the reluctance to accept the intrusion of companionship, and the absurdity of expecting such needs to be compatible.

Like many of Diski's best stories, it is set in the ugly battleground of London now, and opens with a menacing evocation of the weaving drunks and shuffling homeless of Camden Town. It is there, in a darkened alley, that Mimi passes the figure of a sleeping derelict and finds herself returning to investigate whether the unconscious body might be injured and in need of help. She discovers an old woman, sinking with the filth of poverty and neglect, and calls an ambulance for her before returning to the confusions of life with her faithful lover, Jack.

The parameedics, with savage irony, decide to name the unconscious woman Bella. As Mimi walks away, wondering who the woman might once have been, memories of her own lost mother, Leah, sur-

face to trouble her. Her sharpest childhood memory is of Leah, once deserted by Mimi's father for another woman, recognising him in Charing Cross and pursuing him with a knife kept for the purpose in her handbag. Mimi's father escapes; essentially, the woman in Mimi's story, and also in those she invents, do not.

So it is we enter the consciousness of the injured woman, or rather the inner world Mimi fantasises for her. Sometimes she is a bomb blast victim, disfigured and reclusive but loved, waiting every evening for the man who looks after her to return. Sometimes she is Leah. And for a time she is a figure given miraculous power to restore life to a dead child. None of these imagined women can, or even wants, to relate inti-

mately to anyone: yet like Mimi herself this does not protect them from the fear of abandonment.

Mimi has learnt the ironic shrug of those who avoid pain by replacing the desperation of emotional need with sex as a kind of wild greed. She despises the man she lives with, partly because he can't work unless there is someone in the same room; yet her detachment is equally pathological.

She has begun to fall asleep, publicly, as a way of ensuring that "reality... would recede like a star expanding away from the centre of the universe". At length, the logic of that retreat leaves her preferring to stay in bed altogether. Being with other people might have pleasurable moments, she concludes, but her own dreams and the escape of sleep is a more reliable source of comfort. The derelict Bella, waking from her hospital bed of pain without memory of her own past is given a rather similar reflection: "Unconsciousness, at the moment, seemed a better bet." Only the quirky talent of Jenny Diski could make so bleak a vision engaging and even amusing.

In the deep freeze

THOM JONES'S new collection of stories recalls the *sensu* form. Jones's prose is almost anti-poetic in its brusqueness, but much of the book is linked by keywords. Africa, AIDS, manic depression, doctors, diabetes, lithium, malaria, Stelazine — these components rearrange themselves with impressive variety in the first six pieces, lending thematic coherence and wit to this odd collection.

In the title story, *Cold Snap*, a manic-depressive doctor named Richard has recently returned from a stint in Africa, dismissed on account of his mania. He is better off, however, than his institutionalised younger sister Susan, whose self-inflicted lobotomy has left her child-like and affectless. Not much happens — Richard takes his sister to the zoo and spends a sleepless night with her at home — and his high-pitched, digressive recounting is itself the point.

Cold Snap is followed by *Superman, My Son*, in which an aging businessman named Wilhem Blaine visits his manic-depressive adopted son Walter. Although in the third person, this story, too, is largely structured around its digressions — about Wilhem's recent involvement in a robbery, about Walter's manic escapades.



Thom Jones: stories that circle the secret core of madness

Claire Messud

COLD SNAP

By Thom Jones
Faber, £8.99
ISBN 0 571 17788 1

Way Down Deep in the Jungle and Quicksand, both set in Africa, are more tightly formed. The former, about a drunken New Zealander named Dr Koestler and his pet baboon George Babbitt, recalls Somerset Maugham or Graham Greene: it captures the intensity and aimlessness of life in the bush. The latter is a sort of love story, about romance blossoming under the influence of malaria, a stone's throw from Rwanda's atrocities.

THESE, along with *Ooh Baby*, the portrait of a diabetic plastic surgeon, are the strongest in the collection. Jones's attempt to give voice to an Aboriginal surfer-girl from Alice Springs, in *Rockyfire Red*, is downright unsuccessful; the other story about a woman, *I Need a Man to Love*

Me, which chronicles a suicide, wavers also: its protagonist, a victim of muscular dystrophy ("She wasn't Stephen Hawking yet, or like that guy with the left foot, Christy Brown, but close"), has so little definition she is almost transparent, imaginable only for her wheelchair and her hoarded cache of pills.

The last two stories in the book, *Poi Shack* and *Dynamite Hands*, return to terrain familiar from Jones's first collection — the Vietnam War and boxing. They flow with an assurance that the other stories, in their breathlessness, lack; but they also feel like leftovers from an earlier stage in Jones's development.

The *Pugilist At Rest* was a remarkable book, in which the flaws seemed only to contribute to the stories' overall power. *Cold Snap* is less effective: its stories, like their characters, often ramble manically, without ever grasping the secret core of madness. This said, Jones circles greedily around that core, approaching it as few dare to: in this, his is an enterprise worthy of attention.

Untold tales

Spying on your friends is still (just about) frowned on. Which explains why we have so little definitive material on one of Britain's greatest intelligence coups, its operations in the United States during the Second World War. Hitler's table talk may be common knowledge, along with details of Ultra's contribution to victory in the Atlantic. But, despite freedom of information moves, the story of British Security Coordination (BSC), the New York based centre for various branches of British intelligence in North America, remains under wraps.

Even the supposed internal history of the organisation, which British scholars hoped

Andrew Lycett

WILD BILL AND
INTREPID
Donovan, Stephenson
and the Origin of CIA
By Thomas F. Troy
Yale, £14.95
ISBN 0 300 06563 9

might be released under the recent open government initiative, turns out to be a red herring: an intriguing but ultimately self-serving memoir commissioned at the end of the war by BSC's brilliant chief, the Canadian millionaire, Sir William Stephenson, now enshrined in legend as "Intrepid".

Troy's book approaches the issue from an American perspective. But, as former in-house CIA historian, he misses an opportunity to produce a revisionist account of BSC. Instead, he sandwiches his 25-year-old (recently declassified) Agency report on how far Stephenson engineered the establishment of a unified American intelligence service in July 1941 between some background "questions". The author found himself crushed between two powerful myth-making machines. Officially founded in 1947, the CIA liked to trace its origins to mid-1940 when President Roosevelt plucked the dynamic war hero, Colonel "Wild Bill" Donovan from his job as a lawyer and, after sending him to London on a "fact-finding mission", appointed him Coordinator of Information (COI), the forerunner of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and, later, the CIA.

Troy was a junior analyst when an alternative British version appeared in *The Quiet Canadian*, a 1963 book by former BSC member Montgomery Hyde. This suggested that the eponymous Stephenson, ace fighter pilot turned successful international businessman, had been appointed United States personal representative of both Winston Churchill and British intelligence, with the express task of promoting Donovan to Roosevelt as head of American dirty tricks — no mean task since "Wild Bill" was a staunch Republican and FDR a Democrat.

Finding no useful corroborative CIA material, Troy travelled to Bermuda, where Stephenson was living in comfortable retirement. "Intrepid" introduced him to C. H. (Dick) Ellis, his former BSC deputy,



Practitioners of the secret arts: Donovan (left) and Stephenson with the logo of CIA

whose first draft of Hyde's book he, as project instigator, had discarded as too dry.

Because Ellis was under investigation as a suspected Soviet agent, Troy was warned off further collaboration by the CIA's fiercely anti-Communist counter-intelligence chief, James Angleton. Undeterred, Stephenson set to work with William Stevenson, a fellow Canadian, on *The Man Called Intrepid*, an even more favourable interpretation of his war-time role — one so fanciful, in fact, that it diminished his status as a skilled practitioner of the secret arts.

Troy shows that moves to unify American intelligence were well advanced by 1941. Donovan's case was promoted by Frank Knox, who was

appointed Secretary of the Navy in June 1940, as the United States began to react to developments in Europe.

Many British elements, including the Ambassador Lord Lothian, worked to bolster mutual co-operation during this difficult period. Donovan welcomed opportunities to observe an integrated operational intelligence service in Britain, but was never, as "Intrepid" later suggested, an old friend of Stephenson, still less a British agent recruited in 1916.

On the other hand, Troy underestimates the determination of the wily Britishers (his word) to get Washington on their side. That meant

signing up prominent journalists as paid agents, as well as infiltrating the docks to ensure the safety of British supplies. By 1943 BSC's task was virtually over and, as Troy reports, that was when Stephenson first began embellishing his reputation. Quite why such a distinguished man felt this need surely requires a new biography. One personal hunch: it is no coincidence that Hyde's book appeared in 1963, the year Philip de Koven, when British intelligence needed authentic champions to throw in the face of people like Angleton.

Andrew Lycett is the author of *Ian Fleming*, published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson

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GOLF

Beames aims low in attempt to reach the heights

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

ONCE the early morning rain that dogged the opening matches in the first round of the Amateur Championship at Turnberry had been blown away by a sturdy southwesterly that was gusting at up to 40mph, a buzz quickly spread among competitors and spectators alike. "This is the weather for Beames," went the word. "He hits the ball lower than anyone."

Beames, who is 21 and reached the semi-finals of the Amateur last year, was born in Kilbirnie, Ayrshire, before moving to Wick at the age of 13 and taking up golf. Wick, which is 17 miles from John O'Groats, is not known to be a hotbed of golf. Indeed, to some Scots, it is not known to be a hotbed of anything. "Wick is to Scotland what Tasmania is to Australia," a man who can be permitted such politically incorrect statements on the grounds that he is Scottish, said at Turnberry. "No Scot has ever been to Wick, but no Australian has been to Tasmania. I know nothing about Wick except that it

might be as far north of here as London is south."

Beames, it was said, hits the ball so low that spectators have to duck. He calculated that he travelled 14,000 miles playing amateur golf last year. "Everything is a 500-mile round trip for me," he said. In the 1995 Amateur he lost to Gordon Sherry, the eventual winner, a performance that put him into the Scotland team for the home internationals.

Before Beames' test-off against Michael Searle, whose home club, Lymington, is about as far south in England as Beames's is north in Scotland, Warren Bladen continued the form he had shown in jointly leading the qualifying competition.

"Warren always was an impressive hitter," Peter McEvoy, the England captain, said of his former team-mate in the Warwickshire team. "He is very powerful, even if he has not got the greatest patience." It was midway through the home half that the power that Bladen generates from

within his 6ft 3in, 17-stone frame began to tell. He broke clear of the challenge of Steven Allan, the Australian whose two qualifying scores were 86 and 65, with a startling burst. Bladen went four, three, three, four from the 13th and that was enough to give him victory by 3 and 2.

If there was a prize for dedication, then Euan Little, 20, would win it hands down. He practises for six hours each day, in three two-hour sessions, sometimes hitting as many as 1,500 balls. He put in two hours yesterday morning before comfortably beating Denny Lucas—and then went out to carry Beames's bag.

If there was a prize for precocity, then another Scot, Fraser McLaughlan, would probably win that. At 17 he is the youngest competitor in the tournament and to hear him talk you would think he was 27 or 37. He was out in 36, one over par, and still only one over when he defeated Paul Nelson on the 15th.

Then Beames came into the view of the spectators gathered beneath the monument to the right of the 12th green. He was already five up and from the way he drove on the 13th it was clear that word of his low-hitting prowess had not been exaggerated. His drive bored through the wind and ended 30 yards past Searle's. His second never rose above knee-height.

Searle may not have meant his words for publication but they are accurate nonetheless. After he had ballooned his second to the 13th, and cursed himself, he said of Beames, perhaps prophetically: "I played like... but he'll take some beating this week."

The second round will be a severe test for Beames this morning. He faces Jody Panagan, the Ireland international and Walker Cup player. Panagan was one down after three holes against Jamie Little, but took the 13th, 14th and 15th on his way to victory. Panagan said he played "very solid golf" but pointed out that, in the wind that had blown all day, 18-hole matches were a bit of a lottery.

Results, page 44



Bryson, left, lines up a putt with his caddy en route to a 2 and 1 defeat by Orr

Players set for rough ride

By MEL WEBB

COLIN MONTGOMERIE has pronounced himself satisfied with the set-up of the Arden course for the Alamo Arden Open, which starts at the Forest of Arden today. But then he would, seeing as he is largely responsible for it.

Montgomery is a consultant to the Marriott group, which manages the Forest of Arden, and has been working with the course manager and greenkeeping staff to toughen up the course for one of the PGA European Tour's bigger tournaments. The result is a layout that rewards good golf (which Montgomery just happens to play 98 per cent of the time), and severely punishes anything less (the two per cent that is left).

The changes to the course are cosmetic, but closer examination reveals a philosophy that borders on the sadistic. The fairways have been allowed to grow in, the rough

is more punishing than it has been on the three occasions this tournament has been held there, and there are thick collars of grass around the greens. Many are the spleens that will be vented this week by frustrated golfers up to their ears in vegetation.

Montgomery insisted yesterday that it is entirely coincidental that the tournament that follows this one, for him and 19 other European Tour members, is the US Open at Oakland Hills next week. The Scot may be a man of unimpeachable probity, but anyone guessing that the conditions in Michigan will include narrow fairways, and thick rough alongside fairways and around greens, would not be a million miles wide of the mark.

The one thing that the transatlantic travellers will find completely different this week is the speed and condi-

tion of the greens. There have been problems with the putting surfaces, many of them caused by the English spring that is only now beginning to move into summer. Montgomery's verdict is that they put better than they look, which, given the way they look, is but a small consolation.

"I think the staff here have done a very good job," Montgomery said. "The course looks fabulous, and if the greens are not what we hoped for, they are certainly in an acceptable condition."

"This is now as tough a layout as we will find in Europe. It will be a good test of golf, but it's important to be patient—they don't pay out until Sunday. It's absolutely no good hoping to get by with chipping and putting. The key will be to hit the fairways." He should know; he does it more often than most.

FOOTBALL

Swiss squad hit by injuries as kick-off looms

By RUSSELL KEMPSON AND PETER BALL

SWITZERLAND will play England in the opening match of Euro 96 on Saturday without Christophe Ohrel, the St Etienne midfielder player. He has left the squad and returned home after breaking the big toe of his right foot in training.

Ohrel, 28, has been one of the side's most influential players, having won 47 international caps and scored six goals. He will be replaced by Patrick Sylvestre, 27, of Stion, who made a brief appearance in the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States. Sylvestre gained the last of his 11 caps two years ago.

Artur Jorge, the Switzerland coach, is also worried about the fitness of Stephane Henchoz, the Hamburg defender. He returned to training yesterday, after a week's absence, when the squad arrived at their Euro 96 base in Ware, Hertfordshire.

Jorge's preparations have been further hindered by a mix-up over the use of Wembley Stadium. Swiss officials believed that they would be able to train at the national stadium today but their session has been put off until tomorrow because it is being used to practise the tournament's opening ceremony today.

"I understand the need to practise the ceremony but this is more important," Jorge said. "The football has to come first."

Guido Cornella, vice-president of the Swiss FA, said: "We only found out two days ago that we couldn't train when we wanted to. It is not good enough."

Holland arrive in England today fresh from Tuesday's 3-1 victory over Ireland in Rotterdam and without any of the wrangles about money or the position of the coach that have bedevilled Dutch preparations in the past.

Gus Hiddink, the coach, has had his contract extended to take the national side through to the 1998 World Cup finals, so the figure of Johan Cruyff, the former Barcelona manager, loitering in the wings is less of a threat—unless Holland lose to Scotland. Danny Blind, the captain, has negotiated £65,000 on behalf of the players as a reward for qualifying and they

stand to make approximately £170,000 each if they go on to win the competition.

Jaap Stam, the PSV Eindhoven defender, was called into the Holland squad yesterday to replace Frank de Boer, who was sent home with an ankle injury on Tuesday. Peter Hoekstra, the Ajax winger, is carrying a knee injury and the fitness of Patrick Kluijver remains in some doubt.

Kluijver has been insisting that he will be fit to play. He did not look it when he appeared as a substitute in the European Cup final two weeks ago and he was not even on the substitutes' bench on Tuesday night.

"Kluijver is a problem, he has got a little damage to the knee, still some liquid on it," Guus Hiddink, the coach, said. "He is a willing little horse, but I have to put the brake on a bit."

If Kluijver is missing, Hiddink will have to decide whether to use Yuri Mulder, the Schalke 04 forward, or move Bergkamp into the striker's role. "Using Bergkamp there is something I will think about," Hiddink said.

Croatia, who do not arrive

In The Times Magazine on Saturday: the heroes, hat-tricks and fairies of 1966 remembered

in England until Saturday, have been preparing for their group D campaign in the countryside around Carrickmacross in Co Monaghan, Ireland. Fishing, table tennis and snooker have figured highly on the agenda, with a touch of football thrown in for good measure.

"It is beautiful here," Mladen Petreski, a team spokesman, said yesterday. "We are getting all the oxygen we need and the players are feeling really refreshed."

Since drawing 2-2 with Ireland in Dublin on Sunday, the Croatians have retired to the plush sports and leisure complex of the Nuremberg hotel. They were due to play a charity match at United Park, Drogheda, last night against a League of Ireland Select XI to raise money for a project for refugee children back home in Osijek.

FEATURES

CRICKET

First Cornhill Test match
11.0, first day of five, 80 overs minimum
EDGBASTON: England v India

Britannia Assurance championship
11.0, first day of four, 104 overs minimum
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Lancashire

SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Derbyshire

LORDS: Middlesex v Glamorgan

TRINITY BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Northamptonshire

TAUNTON: Somerset v Warwickshire

MOVIE: Sussex v Durham

MIDLESBROUGH: Yorkshire v Surrey

Second day of four, 104 overs minimum
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Kent

University match
11.30, first day of three

THE PARKS: Oxford University v Worcester

BAIN HOBBS TROPHY (one day): Bristol: Gloucestershire v Somerset; Sharnley Park: MCC Young Gentlemen v Sussex; Northampton: Northamptonshire v Middlesex; Woburn: Woburn College v Nottinghamshire v Yorkshire

OTHER SPORT

EQUESTRIAN: Bramham three-day event (Bramham)

GOLF: English Open (Forest of Arden); English Open women amateur championship (Oxford and West Lake)

TENNIS: Beckenham Open (Beckenham Cricket Club)

SPEEDWAY: Premier League (South v Peterborough (7.30), Middlesbrough v Reading (7.30), Sheffield v Wolverhampton (7.45))

CYCLING

Final sprint secures stage for Cipollini

MARIO CIPOLLINI, of Italy, sealed his fourth victory on the Giro d'Italia, in Vicenza, yesterday when he raced across the line to win the 216km (about 135 miles) eighteenth stage from Meda.

Cipollini, who also won sprint finishes on the fourth, eighth and eleventh stages, hit the front with 80 metres to go and was in no danger of being caught by his pursuing countryman, Giovanni Lombardi. Pavel Tonkov, of Russia, retained the overall leader's pink jersey, however.

The peloton faces three tough days before the final stage in Milan on Sunday. Today is a 62km time-trial, followed by two testing mountain stages tomorrow and Saturday, which feature nine difficult hill climbs.

The Criterium du Dauphiné, in France, also saw a home stage-winner when Gilles Bouvard outspun Mariano Rojas, of Spain, and Christian Henn, of Germany, in the final 100 metres, to win the 176km third stage in Tourmaur-sur-Rhone yesterday.

The 26-year-old rider survived an early breakaway by his countryman, Laurent Jalabert, the world champion, to score his first victory. Chris Boardman, of Britain, and Tony Rominger, the former Swiss world champion, were among a group of five riders that broke clear with Jalabert at the 49km mark.

Despite opening up a gap of one minute, they were caught by the peloton before Henn, Rojas and Bouvard made a break with 30km to go.

RUGBY

Bath want to talk with Eagles

JOHN HALL, the Bath director of rugby, is seeking talks with Sheffield Eagles rugby league club over their reported interest in Jon Sleightholme, the England international wing.

Hall said: "Jon will be playing for Bath next season and committed to an intense programme of preparation. There has been no approach from Sheffield Eagles received by this club and I hope to talk to Gary Hetherington to establish the full facts of the situation."

Eagles have made approaches to Sleightholme's representatives to see if he would like to play Super League for the rest of the summer season.

HARVEY SOARS

Gliding: Peter Harvey, of Britain, remained on the Open Class leaderboard on the third day of the European championships in Ryskela, Finland, despite a nail-biting last 50m low and slow final glide on the class 530km polygon task. Alister Kay retained overall second in the 15 metres, with a sixth place over 475km on the third day.

New World Cup

Rowing: A new annual international team competition, the World Cup, will start in 1997. World Cup regattas, for all 14 Olympic boat classes, will be staged at three-weekly intervals in Munich and Paris, with the finals in Lucerne. The full participation of a British team could be in doubt since the Lucerne finals fall one week after Henley Royal Regatta.

JOYNER OUT

Athletics: Florence Griffith Joyner, who set world records in winning the 100 metres and 200 metres gold medals at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, will not compete at the Atlanta Games due to tendinitis.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
To make the most of the North-South assets on this hand you have to play the spades and diamonds in the right order.

Dealer South	Love all	Robber bridge
♠ KQ4 ♥ A103 ♦ Q5 ♣ Q10874 ♠ 10987 ♥ 742 ♦ K84 ♣ 632	♠ N ♥ E ♦ W ♣ S ♠ AJS ♥ QJ6 ♦ AJS2 ♣ AKJ	♠ 885 ♥ K986 ♦ 10763 ♣ 555

Contract: 6NT by South. Lead: ten of spades

It was a reasonable auction with the merit of simplicity. How would you have tackled the play?

South saw things in a simple light. There were ten top winners and possible finesses in both red suits. He started by winning in hand and running the queen of hearts. If this finesse had been right he would have had twelve tricks but it lost and he still had only eleven in sight. When, subsequently, the diamond finesse failed, so did the slam.

It is true that the chances of at least one out of two finesses succeeding was 75%, but a better approach would have been to lead a low diamond from hand at trick two. This works beautifully as the cards lie - if West goes in with his king, there is no need for the heart finesse, and if West allows dummy's queen to win declarer switches smartly to hearts.

You may argue that there was no reason to expect West to hold the king of diamonds, rather than East. Perfectly true, but if the queen loses to the king there is the extra edge that the ten of diamonds may fall in three rounds which would make the heart finesse unnecessary. And the finesse is still available if the ten of diamonds has not appeared.

For details of The Times Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannia Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey. KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BYCOKET

a. A cap
b. A breed of bantam
c. Cheated

ACARUS

a. A Greek demigod
b. A chessman
c. A ball in the ear

BESONIO

a. A medieval guitar
b. A beggar
c. The Turkish kilt

ATRABILARIOUS

a. Melancholy
b. To do with quadrangles
c. Predatory

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Resistance

Today I continue my preview of games between the two contenders for the FIDE (World Chess Federation) Championship set to start today. This clash was one of the earliest between Karpov and Kamsky. At the outset of his career Kamsky's lack of sophistication in his choice of openings often landed him quickly in trouble. Against Karpov, this kind of thing can be readily fatal, and in spite of immense resistance Kamsky was finally forced to capitulate after a long endgame. Karpov starts the FIDE match as favourite, leading Kamsky by five wins to two in their previous encounters.

White: Anatoly Karpov
Black: Gata Kamsky
Reggio Emilia 1991

Queen's Indian Defence
1 c4 Nf6
2 Nc3 e5
3 Nf3 b6
4 g3 Bb7
5 Bg2 Ne4
6 d4 Nxd2
7 Bxd2 Nc6
8 e4 Nf6
9 Nc3 Nf6
10 Bb2 Bb7
11 Bb3 Bb7
12 Bb3 Bb7
13 Bb3 Bb7
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29 Bb3 Bb7
30 Bb3 Bb7
31 Bb3 Bb7

Diagram of final position

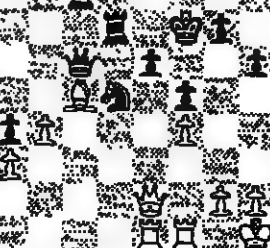


Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Kamsky - Ribli, Reggio Emilia 1991. Until now this game had been a heavyweight manoeuvring battle but now Kamsky decided the game in his favour with a quick tactical thrust. What did he play?



Solution on page 46

Kent was initiated into cricket by Ward's...

SCOREBOARD

Pos. Team P W L D T N O B I C

1. England 10 7 1 0 0 0 0 0 0
2. India 10 6 2 0 0 0 0 0 0
3. Sri Lanka 10 5 3 0 0 0 0 0 0
4. Pakistan 10 4 4 0 0 0 0 0 0
5. Australia 10 3 5 0 0 0 0 0 0
6. New Zealand 10 2 6 0 0 0 0 0 0
7. South Africa 10 1 7 0 0 0 0 0 0
8. West Indies 10 0 8 0 0 0 0 0 0
9. Bangladesh 10 0 9 0 0 0 0 0 0
10. Zimbabwe 10 0 10 0 0 0 0 0 0

مكتبة من الأصل

Wood goes through as others fall by the wayside

By ALIX RAMSAY

THE British do not do well in the heat. Yesterday, as the ball-girls wilted in the sun, the British players melted away at the Beckenham Open. On Tuesday, Britain had 21 players in the two main draws, by yesterday evening only six were still standing. Shirli-Ann Siddall, Jo Ward, Colin Beecher, Danny Sapsford, Andrew Richardson, and Nick Weal all limped away yesterday, leaving only Clare Wood and Tom Spinks to go through and join Tuesday's winners.

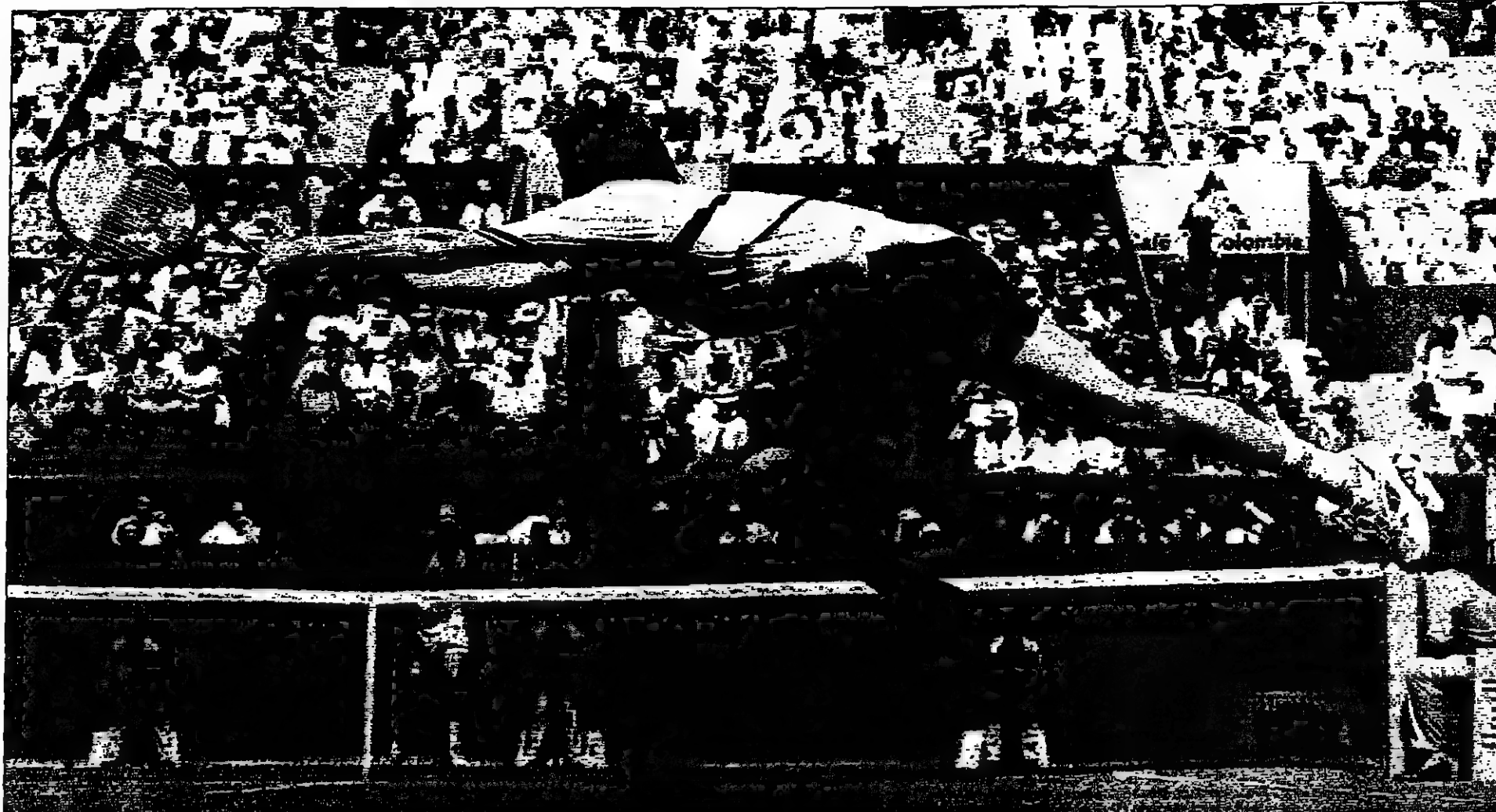
It is ten years since Wood last played Beckenham and, after losing in the first round then, she decided it was not the most promising way to start the grass-court season. Now, with another 18 months to two years left on the circuit, she has changed her mind.

Yesterday, she overcame Siobhan Drake-Brockman, of Australia, and several line judges of limited vision to move into the quarter-finals 5-7, 6-1, 6-4. It could have been a lot easier when she held set point on Drake-Brockman's service only to be snatched by a dubious call. "Everyone around the court could see it was at least six inches out but it was called in," she said. "I should have won that 6-4; it was disappointing to lose the set 7-5."

Drake-Brockman seemed to imagine she was playing on clay, trying to slide to every wide ball only to find herself short of the target.

For Wood the two-hour workout was part of the preparation for the more important events, those worth computer points, in the coming weeks. After 18 months trying to get back to full fitness after a battle with a hamstring injury, she wants to break back into the top 100 before she calls it a day.

The only other success came through Spinks, from Norwich, who stands 6ft 3in but was still four inches shorter than Richardson, his opponent. Richardson was last year's joint winner after his final against Petr Korda was rained off. Yesterday he lost 6-4, 7-5.



Karbacher, of Germany, who lost his quarter-final after being two sets ahead, dives in an attempt to intercept a passing shot from Rosset, his Swiss opponent

Subtle Stich eases past local favourite

FROM DAVID MILLER IN PARIS

MICHAEL STICH said afterwards it had been fun. The Parisian crowd did not quite see it that way. For much of the time, they were reduced to relative silence as the tall German halted the advance of Cedric Pioline, the local favourite, born in the suburb of Neuilly-sur-Seine, at the quarter-final stage of the French Open championships.

Yesterday's defeat was made even less acceptable because Stich achieved it by subtlety, almost without urgency, cutting Pioline apart with the varied refinement of his shots, as he won 6-4, 6-3, 6-2.

He thus joined that other renowned serve-and-volleyer, Pete Sampras, in the semi-finals, where tomorrow he will play Marc Rosset, the first Swiss player to reach the semi-

final stage of a grand slam tournament.

On a baking day, when ball boys held parasols over the players as they sat in their chairs during change of ends, Stich was the master of the all-court game.

He played with patience from the baseline, matching the best of Pioline's flowing ground strokes, put him on edge with fading back spin, then taunted him with drop shots, and repeatedly advanced to the net to hit conclusive volleys.

Stich inadvertently swayed the crowd more against him, emotionally, when he justifiably queried some suspicious calls, which the umpire, upon inspection, gave in his favour.

The crowd started applauding first-serve faults, and cheering his double faults, though of these there were few. Stich merely continued to produce his anaesthetising winners.

Both men are 27. Pioline is ranked 19th, Stich 16th, following a long absence with injury. Pioline's moment of glory in tennis had come when he reached the final of the US Open in 1993, losing to Sampras. His previous record in the French Open is relatively poor. Yesterday, there was seldom solid authority in his game. When there were cheers for some point, the note was more one of sympathy than momentary triumph.

It was not until the ninth game of the second set, when Pioline hit a withering forehand drive, that the crowd reverberated with the feeling that their man might turn the tide, might win through. Turn it he did, but for only one game — the long tenth of five deuces, in which he secured his fifth set point to level the match. In no time at all he was 3-0 down in the third set and slithering away.

"I like every surface," Stich said, "especially clay, because you have to win the points by outplaying your opponent." He said his only motivation these days was playing for enjoyment, and not for the money, though he could not answer a question on whether he would have had the same relaxed attitude did he not have the cushion of substantial previous prize-money.

"I'm fresher than the others, after a break," he said. "But last game at the end of the second set loosened me up. Marc [Rosset] will be very tough on Friday, he showed that by coming from two sets down today against Bernd Karbacher."

With the odd-game lead on service, Stich had moved steadily to 4-3 in the first set, then broke for 5-3 with the help of four consecutive errors by Pioline. Attempting to force

the pace, Stich made volleying errors to lose his own service, but broke Pioline again for the set, winning a long rally.

Pioline inflicted the fourth consecutive break of serve to lead 1-0 in the second set, dropped his own serve in the fourth game, but, assisted by Stich's lax volleying, broke for 3-2 and served for the set at 5-4.

Although his backswing and follow-through on his drives are elegant, Pioline contrives to look weary almost from the start of any match, with his slightly hunched shoulders, shuffling gait and baggy shorts that make him look like a weekend veteran. Now, briefly, he found his touch and although Stich twice had game points for 5-5, Pioline's mood briefly lifted him. It proved to be a false dawn.

Rosset will not exactly have endeared himself to his com-

patriots by saying that being the first Swiss in a semi-final "means nothing". He had just beaten Karbacher 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-0, taking command when, from the third set, he started to come in to volley. "He got nervous when he had the possibility of finishing the match," Rosset said, "and I changed my game completely."

The other semi-final tomorrow pits Sampras against Yevgeny Kafelnikov, of Russia.

In today's semi-finals of the women's singles, Steffi Graf must surely be expected to defeat Conchita Martinez, who has won only one of her 13 previous matches, three years ago, while Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, having eliminated Monica Seles, should beat Jana Novotna, against whom she has won the last four encounters, including the Paris quarter-final of 1993.

Wharton sharpens up armoury for title bid

By SRIKUMAR SEN BOXING CORRESPONDENT

THE much-vaunted left hook of Henry Wharton is to be given a rest for the summer. It is all a part of the Yorkshire super-middleweight's plan of action to beat Thulane Malinga, of South Africa, the World Boxing Council (WBC) champion, at the end of the year.

Wharton aims to concentrate on developing an array of punches in the next six months to surprise the South African. After Wharton's win over Stephane Nizard, of France, on Tuesday, the Frenchman insisted that the Briton would knock out Malinga. Wharton, however, is taking no chances.

He wants to defend his Commonwealth title twice before the bout with Malinga and, far from accepting easy defences, he is looking for opponents similar to Malinga. "I want fighters that are awkward, like Malinga," Wharton said.

"The fight against Nizard was hard, but I don't mind not looking sensational. I was experimenting. My normal thing is power but this time I was trying different things. Everybody expects me to use my left hook but I caught him with a lot of right-handers."

Wharton has already mastered some alternative punches, particularly the jab and the uppercut. But he was unable to sustain his work-rate because of his extra weight, the result of five months' inactivity. He weighed his heaviest at 12st 8lb.

"He lacks speed because he is half a stone overweight," Mickey Duff, his manager, said. "Once he has taken off half a stone he will be a lot faster and I am certain he will lift the title this time."

Naseem Hamed, meanwhile, who puts his World Boxing Organisation featherweight title on the line against Daniel Alifan, of Puerto Rico, at Newcastle Arena on Saturday, could be in line for a debut in the United States next month on the undercard of the Mike Tyson heavyweight defence against Bruce Seldon, in Las Vegas.

Hamed will need to be impressive in a bout which is to be broadcast live to the United States. Fulfilment of his prediction to stop the unbeaten Puerto Rican in three rounds should secure the Las Vegas date, and a possible bout in September against Azumah Nelson, the WBC super-featherweight champion.

A third Briton, Gary Jacobs, of Scotland, has been nominated No 1 challenger for Felix Trinidad's International Boxing Federation title.

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

Win an MGF worth £17,000



Today The Times gives you the chance to win an exciting new MGF. Simply collect six differently numbered tokens and complete the entry form which will be published on Monday and will appear again on Saturday for your chance to win the MGF 1.8i.

The relaunch of the MGF after a 15-year gap, revives the golden days of carefree motoring and is the first car Rover has built without Honda or BMW influence since the Austin Montego.

It is an affordable and stylish open-top British sports car for the nineties with excellent handling and performance. Unlike its predecessors, it has a mid-engined, rear wheel drive layout and one of the most advanced production engines in the world. Because the weight of the engine is over the driven wheels the car is well-balanced and has excellent grip under acceleration allowing you to handle bends at speed.

Although the look is modern, the design of the grille reflects the MG's sporty heritage. It is a design that has produced a

frame stiffer than any convertible other than a Mercedes SL, and the car barely feels a ripple in the road; the ride is one of the best in any two-seater. Other features include a driver's airbag as standard and seatbelt pre-tensioners which tighten the seatbelts just before the airbag is activated to help keep the occupants securely seated; power steering, spoke alloy wheels and independent suspension all round with double wishbones, plus front and rear anti-roll bars.

Two simple latches fasten the hood to the head rail so you can fold it down in under a minute. For extra fresh air with the hood up, you can unzip the tinted plastic backlight.

The MGF has one of the strongest bodies ever constructed for a sports two-seater ensuring structural safety.

Inside, features include ivory-coloured dials of the instrument panel which recall the traditional MG design, a 20 watts per channel electronic stereo radio cassette and Radio Data System with traffic information to help you avoid jams. Electric windows are provided as standard. Luggage space is also generous with room for two full sets of golf clubs.

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win the MGF 1.8i collect six differently numbered tokens from those appearing daily in The Times until Saturday, June 15, 1996. (You may enter twice if you wish.) Send them with the completed entry form to: The Times MG Prize Draw Competition, PO Box 8385, London, SE7 7ZL.

PRIZE DRAW CONDITIONS
The prize draw is open to all Times readers over 18. The winner will be chosen at random from all entries received before the closing date of June 21, 1996. The prize is not transferable. There is no cash alternative. Normal Times Newspaper competition rules apply.



FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Oakland 8 Kansas City 3; Boston 4 Chicago 8; Cleveland 7 Seattle 10; New York 3 Toronto 4; Milwaukee 1 Tampa 2; Minnesota 5 California 3; Baltimore 10 Detroit 7.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Chicago 3 Philadelphia 12; Florida 5 Montreal 6; Cincinnati 1 San Francisco 1; Atlanta 8 New York 0; Houston 16 Colorado 6; Los Angeles 0 Pittsburgh 8; San Diego 6 St Louis 11.

BOXING

YORK: Super-middleweight (10 rnds): Henry Wharton (Great Britain) vs Stephen Nizard (France) via Central Area championship championship (10 rnds) David Brown (England) vs Bobbie (Manchester) via Light-middleweight (8 rnds): Kevin Thompson (Birmingham) vs David Richard (Newcastle) via Heavy (10 rnds): Paul Webb (Huddersfield) vs Bernard Williams (Cardiff) via Graham McGee (Widow) via Super-heavyweight (6 rnds): Michael Goss (Middlesex) vs Martin Evans (Durham) via 2nd rnd.

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: First day of three: Southend Essex 241 (P R Shaw 78 not out, J E Hirston 5-63 and 82 (R J Chapman 5-43); Nottingham 409 (J J Baines 112, L N Walker 56, J C Powell 4-103). Nottinghamshire won by 10 runs after 18 overs. Second day: Essex 229 (P R Shaw 78 not out, J E Hirston 5-63 and 82 (R J Chapman 5-43); Nottingham 409 (J J Baines 112, L N Walker 56, J C Powell 4-103). Nottinghamshire won by 10 runs after 18 overs.

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP

First day of two: Northants 194-5 (N D Hirston 5-43); Nottingham 409 (J J Baines 112, L N Walker 56, J C Powell 4-103). Nottinghamshire won by 10 runs after 18 overs.

RATHMINES INTERNATIONAL MATCH

First day of three: Ireland 268-9 (A Dunlop 88 and 20-5; D Dunlop 91, J Bannan 50; 2nd day: Ireland 268-9 (A Dunlop 88 and 20-5; D Dunlop 91, J Bannan 50).

FOOTBALL

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Holland 3 Ireland 1 (in Rotterdam); Germany 3 Luxembourg 1 (in Mannheim).

GOLF

TURNBERRY: Amateur Championship: Matchplay: First round: W Blanton (Northampton) vs S Allen (Australia) 4 and 2; P Lucas (University College, Dublin) vs G Harty (Ireland) 4 and 2; J Cullen (Glasgow) vs J McCall (Newcastle) 4 and 2; J McCall (Newcastle) vs J McCall (Newcastle) 4 and 2; J McCall (Newcastle) vs J McCall (Newcastle) 4 and 2.

GLIDING

RAVSCALA: Finland: European championships: Third day: Open (533m) 1st J Jansen (Denmark) 2nd J Jansen (Denmark) 3rd J Jansen (Denmark) 4th J Jansen (Denmark) 5th J Jansen (Denmark) 6th J Jansen (Denmark) 7th J Jansen (Denmark) 8th J Jansen (Denmark) 9th J Jansen (Denmark) 10th J Jansen (Denmark).

ICE HOCKEY

STANLEY CUP: Colorado 3 Florida 1 Colorado lead best-of-seven series 1-0.

RUGBY UNION

TOTAL MATCHES: 27 Wales XV 20 (in Sydney); 36 Scotland (in Hamilton).

TENNIS

PARIS: French Open championships: Men's Singles: Quarter-finals: M Rosset (Switzerland) vs B Karbacher (Germany) 6-4, 6-3, 7-5; 6-4; M Stich (Germany) vs C Pioline (France) 6-4, 6-3, 7-5; 6-4; M Stich (Germany) vs C Pioline (France) 6-4, 6-3, 7-5; 6-4.

WARWICK

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RICHARD EVANS

Nap: HILAALA (4:30 Goodwood); Next best: Smartier Charter (2:50 Beverley).

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BEAMES AIMS LOW
IN ATTEMPT TO
REACH AMATEUR HEIGHTS

SPORT

THURSDAY JUNE 6 1996

JOHN BRYANT 46

WHEN STARS ARE
MADE TO SUIT
GRAND DESIGN

Tory do
covert ca
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Irani set for debut as Edgbaston wicket turns selection in spinner's favour

England poised to pitch in Patel

By Alan Lee
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND are preparing to award three new caps at Edgbaston today as the Cornhill Test match summer begins on a pitch believed by all concerned to bear no relation to its neighbour, condemned last July by Michael Atherton, the England captain, as the worst he has seen after West Indies had won a brief, but brutal, contest inside seven sessions.

The largest gathering on the ground yesterday was to be found peering at the surface prepared by Steve Rouse, the Warwickshire groundsman. Its startling, two-tone appearance of a year ago has been replaced by one of light grass cover, patchier than England would consider ideal now it is they who have the weight of fast bowling but certainly not a pitch to intimidate.

Atherton pronounced that it

John Woodcock 43
Ward lifts Kent 43

looked "a reasonable deck" but also indicated that it was not quite what had been expected. "We're more inclined to play a spinner than we were before we arrived. It is looking increasingly probable," he said. This was good news for Moin Patel and, consequently, for Ronnie Irani, but deflating for John Crawley, who looks sure to miss out along with a specialist seam bowler.

With Patel, the left-arm spinner from Kent, included to exploit the cracks in the pitch and the monopoly of Indian right-handers, Irani, the Essex all-rounder, will play his first Test at No 6. Chris Lewis seems assured of his place, with Atherton musing that the bowler to drop out will be either Alan Mullally, who



Atherton, the England captain, takes time out during a strenuous session in the nets yesterday to study a video of his own batting form before today's first Test

would be the third new cap, or Peter Martin.

One reason, tactical privacy aside, why Atherton could not be more specific was the unusual absence on the day before a Test match of the chairman of selectors, Raymond Illingworth. Nobody was entirely sure why he had stayed away (though Atherton

irreverently suggested he might be doing a book signing) but as Illingworth comes before the disciplinary committee of the Test and County Cricket Board next Wednesday and the impression grows of an embittered, fatalistic man, it might have been as well that he did.

Atherton and his friend, David Lloyd, the coach, appear to be smoothly in control of team affairs but, as both are aware, it is important not to get carried away. Some of the plaudits hurled in Lloyd's direction have been disproportionate to the achievement of winning the Texaco Trophy.

Lloyd knows as much. He is good for the players, no question, but should not be burdened with overblown praise, and thereby inflated expectation, almost before he has his feet under the table. As Atherton said: "It's easy to be bubbly when you are winning

games. Our priority now is to win a Test series."

So it should be. England have beaten only New Zealand since 1990, which was when they last met India at home. The decisive victory in that series was secured by the captain, Graham Gooch, making 333 at Lord's. His successor is in the mood for something similarly influential and was fascinated that the spread bookmakers, Sporting Index believe he will face 300-385 "dot balls" in the three Tests. "I'm going to have to play a long innings," he said, with relish.

He is likely to do so, as are some of the less accomplished England batsmen, for whom this short series represents an inviting opportunity to establish themselves. Nick Knight and Nasser Hussain have the advantage of residency, now, and it will be disappointing, not least to themselves, if either is dislodged from the

side by an Indian attack that ranks among the fiercest of modern Test cricket.

Their team includes three specialist seam bowlers and two spinners. Sunil Joshi is the first player to score 500 runs and take 50 wickets during a season in the Ranji Trophy.

TEAMS
ENGLAND (from): M.A. Atherton (captain), N. Wright, N. Hussain, G.P. Thorpe, G.A. Hick, P. Crawley, R.C. Seal, G.C. Lewis, R.C. Russell, D.C. Cook, M. Patel, P. Illingworth, A.D. Hildy.
INDIA (from): M. Ashwin, captain, V. Ramesh, A.D. Jadeja, S.V. Muralidharan, S.R. Tendulkar, S. Joshi, N.R. Mongia, J. Bishnoi, A. Kumble, B.K.V. Prasad, P.L. Sharma, R.S. Dhoni.
Umpires: D.R. Shepherd (England) and D.B. Hill (Australia). Referee: A.A. Jones. Match referee: C.W. Smith (West Indies).
ENGLAND v INDIA AT EDGBASTON: Result: Played 4, England won 3, India 0, drawn 1. Records (England first): Highest innings total: 323-5 dec (1979), 289 (1982). Lowest innings total: 220 (1997). 50 (1997). Highest individual innings: 214 not out D. Lloyd (1974), 79 M. Atherton (1986). Best innings bowling: 5-70 I.T. Borthwick (1978), 6-58 C.D. Sharma (1986).
TELEVISION: BBC1, 10.55pm, 1.55pm, 4.00pm. Highlights: BBC1, 11.30pm. Sky Sports, 8.30pm.

Ferdinand injury provokes forward thinking

By Oliver Holt

SO FRAUGHT have the controversies racking the England football squad been over the last ten days that reports emanating from their training camp yesterday about worrying injuries were treated almost as light relief. The furor over damage to a Cathay Pacific plane may have abated but concerns over the fragility of the players on whom England's hopes of success in the European championship rest are just beginning.

The squad trained behind closed doors at their Bisham Abbey headquarters in Buckinghamshire yesterday, one session in the cool of the morning followed by another in the baking heat of the afternoon. With only three days to go until their opening game against Switzerland, they again had to work without two key players.

Les Ferdinand, 29, the Newcastle United striker, and Gary Neville, the Manchester United defender, were forced to miss training for the second successive day. On Tuesday, it was thought that both injuries — a groin strain for Ferdinand, a thigh strain for Neville — were niggles that needed a day's rest. Yesterday, though, there was concern that Ferdinand's problem, in particular, did not seem to be responding to treatment.

Neville should recover in time to claim his likely place in the starting line-up for the game against the Swiss but Ferdinand's chances of exerting any pressure on Alan Shearer and Teddy Sheringham, the two men deemed to be ahead of him in the pecking order of forwards, appear to be receding. His problem may be Robbie Fowler's opportunity, bringing the likelihood of a place on the bench for the prolific Liverpool striker.

There was, though, a rare piece of good news for Terry Venables, the England coach, yesterday, when Tony Adams, who was dogged by injury for much of the latter part of last season and missed training on Tuesday with a calf strain, played a full part in both sessions.

Adams said he was certain he could withstand the physical demands that the tournament will place upon him. "I am just taking no chances," he said. "I am fit and ready to play."

Donis jets in to sign three-year deal with Blackburn

By Our Sports Staff

GEORGIOS DONIS, the right winger whose speed and trickery have attracted interest from several leading European football clubs, has joined Blackburn Rovers, of the FA Premier League.

Donis, 26, who helped Panathinaikos to reach the semi-finals of the European Cup last season and who has won 27 caps, arrived at Ewood Park yesterday and agreed a three-year contract before returning to Greece via Manchester airport. He was out of contract and available on a free transfer, which helped him to negotiate a salary believed to be in the region of £20,000 a week.

"I am proud and excited to be making this move," Donis said. "Blackburn is a very

good club and it is a very good offer."

Tony Parkes, the Blackburn assistant manager, said: "We have watched him over several months, involving matches right across Europe. He is exceptionally quick and we feel we have made an excellent signing."

Alan Sugar, the Tottenham Hotspur chairman who was involved in a bitter dispute with the Football Association 18 months ago, will today attempt to win a place on the FA council.

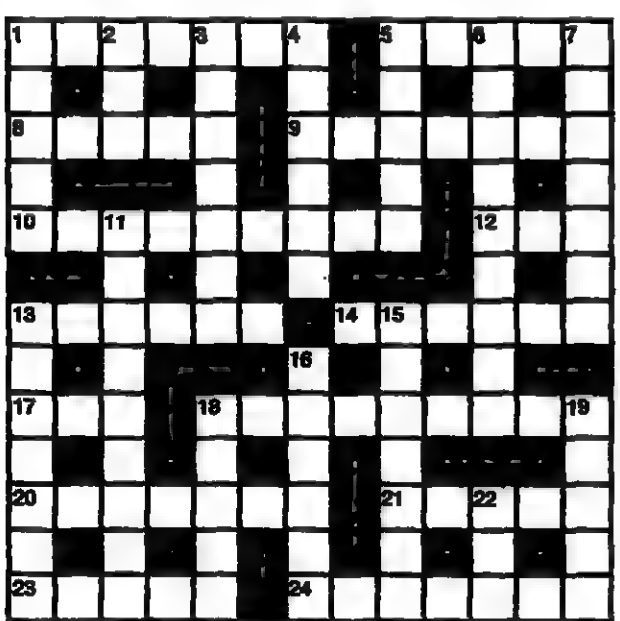
Sugar, who successfully fought an FA Cup ban and 12-point deduction for the club's financial irregularities, is one of seven candidates bidding for five places on the council.

With the opening match of Euro 96 only two days away, UEFA yesterday issued a series of guidelines to players and officials aimed largely at preventing crowd trouble.

Referees have been told to punish anyone who "over-celebrates" goals, with players instructed "not to act provocatively". Winning teams have been banned from laps of honour, the governing body of European football dictating that those who "wish to salute their supporters... should do so from the centre circle". Referees have also been instructed to "severely punish any player guilty of misconduct or rough play."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 801 in association with
BRITISH MIDLAND



- ACROSS**
- Cut (manner) (7)
 - A fish; a rod; a root (5)
 - Red-coated man from North Pole (5)
 - Place to tie up boat (7)
 - Double-vowel sound (9)
 - Make obeisance (3)
 - Pillar: regular newspaper feature (6)
 - Vitamin C deficiency disease (6)
 - Tasteless material: one gives tit for it (3)
 - Soft, creamy French cheese (9)
 - Harry —, escapist (7)
 - A meat jelly (5)
 - Leagues under the Sea (Verne) (5)
 - Wide mouth of river (7)
- DOWN**
- Founded (on) (5)
 - Large vase (3)
 - Tiny amount; a physical theory (7)
 - Lorna Doone settings: type of pony (6)
 - Sharp end of fork (5)
 - Repay expended money (9)
 - The public road (7)
 - Communist ruling group (9)
 - No-win situation (J. Heller) (5-2)
 - Dense; an agreement (7)
 - Arbiter (6)
 - Leonard Marx (5)
 - (Pain) not quite dry (5)
 - Plant, seed eaten as veg. (5)

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Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6686, London, E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

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SOLUTION TO NO 800
ACROSS: 1 Flab 3 Petarrch 8 Spry 9 Burdened 11 Love letter 14 Enrage 15 Ordeal 17 Tabernacle 20 Implicit 21 Ivan 22 Discreet 23 Play
DOWN: 1 Fusilier (Fusilier) 2 Aardvark 4 Equity 5 Red herring 6 Runt 7 Hide 10 Flag-waving 12 Percival (Perceval) 13 Alderney 16 Revile 18 Wild 19 Opus

Dr no adds to Derby confusion

By Richard Evans
RACING CORRESPONDENT

DR MASSINI, recently promoted to favourite for the Vodafone Derby on Saturday, looks certain to miss the race after succumbing to injury yet again. The unbeaten colt was discovered to be lame yesterday morning with a poisoned foot and "is unlikely to be able to run", said from Newmarket.

Dr Massini did not run as a two-year-old because of immature bones and his long-awaited debut was put back

further when he had an infected tooth root followed by a cut to his hock.

When he finally made it to a racecourse last month, he won both starts impressively, only to suffer from lameness two weeks ago, although he recovered from this.

"I am choked," Michael Tabor, the former bookmaker whose colours Dr Massini carries, said from his Monaco home yesterday after hearing of the latest setback. "He has got pus in a foot and I very much doubt if he will run. When I said recently that this horse had suffered more than

his fair share of problems, with injury after injury, some people were sceptical. Unfortunately, it has been borne out by events today and it is very upsetting. Hopefully, the horse will prove his worth in the future."

The run-up to this year's Derby has been dominated by injuries to leading fancies, including Dushyantor, the new 7-2 favourite. The Henry Cecil-trained colt suffers from quarter-cracks to his feet and has nine screws in three of his hooves.

The spate of injuries has not been confined to horses. Ray

Cochrane, who had been due to ride Double Leaf, another Stoute-trained runner, in the Derby and Mezzogiorno in the Oaks will miss the meeting and could be out for a month after dislocating a shoulder in a fall during the Swedish 2,000 Guineas in Stockholm on Tuesday.

Michael Kinane, who had been due to ride Dr Massini, has been offered the ride on Double Leaf but there is increasing speculation that he might opt instead for Storm Trooper, trained by Cecil.

Racing, pages 44-45

Bridge plan gambit for Czech mates

Alyson Rudd on the football minnows keen to tackle the biggest match in their history

THE parting words, via his interpreter, from Dusan Uhrin, the coach of the Czech Republic team, were: "Please remember this is a practice game, a friendly. We're playing Germany next week." Tonight, his team takes on Bamber Bridge, champions of the UniBond League, as part of the Republic's preparations for Euro 96.

"There's no such thing as a friendly game, to be honest," Rus Ribly, the Bamber Bridge groundsman, said yesterday, "but don't worry, there'll be no sliding tackles. Our captain, Jez Baldwin, can be a bit physical, but he's been told to calm things down."

It will be something of a culture shock nonetheless. On Sunday, the Czechs will be playing Germany at the Old Trafford "theatre of dreams". Tonight, they will perform against semi-professionals at Irongate on a pitch that, six years ago, was a farmer's field, bought by "The Brig" for just £3,000. All 2,300 tickets have been sold, which means that a fifth of the expanding Lancashire village's population will be there.

Mel Gainer is swooning over the prospect. He is Bamber Bridge born and bred, watched his brother play in goal for them 30 years ago and has been with the club as player, and now first-team assistant manager, for 22 years. He will lead the team out tonight. "I still can't believe

this is happening," Gainer, a lorry driver, who is taking the day off work, said. "I'd love to find out if the England players feel this kind of fervour."

There will be a brass band, local dignitaries have been invited, and the



UniBond League winners Bamber Bridge hope to celebrate again

national anthems will be played. For Bamber Bridge, the game-plan is simple. "I told the players to put a smile on their face and to wear their shirt with pride," Gainer said. Beyond that, Bamber Bridge will attempt the neat passing game that helped them to win the UniBond League last season. Promotion to the Vauxhall Conference has been denied — they need to build a new stand first — but the revenue generated tonight might help a little. Tickets are £5, £1.50 more expensive than usual.

At first, Ribly thought it was all a joke. "We got a phone call out of the blue and I didn't know what Euro 96 was," he said. Bamber Bridge have worked night and day to ensure that the event runs smoothly, that the pitch is rut-free, and that their team has kit. "The players gave away their shirts to the fans at the end of the season," Gainer said. Bamber Bridge's red second strip clashes, so they will play in brand new white shirts bought for the occasion.

It is the stuff of dreams, and you cannot blame the Bamber Bridge staff for dreaming further. "If the result goes our way, will the big clubs come in for me?" Gainer asked. Nigel Webster, the club's football executive, said: "If we win tonight and the Czechs win Euro 96, then we would have achieved something, wouldn't we?" He sounded confident, too.

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Tory doctors form covert campaign to back NHS reforms

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

DOCTORS sympathetic to the Tory party have set up a covert campaign to promote the Government's health reforms in the run-up to the general election.

The NHS Network, which does not disclose any political affiliations, was set up with the support of Conservative Central Office by Michael Goldsmith, one of the architects of the health service's internal market.

Dr Goldsmith, vice-chairman of the Conservative Medical Society, who is the chief medical officer of the Sedgwick Insurance Group, reports to Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary.

The NHS Network has 20 regional co-ordinators and 1,000 members, including nurses, doctors, NHS managers and hospital trust chairmen. They write to local newspapers, take part in radio phone-ins, suggest positive media coverage on medical breakthroughs and address public meetings. They do not disclose their membership of the group.

Conservative Central Office was the driving force behind the venture, which is funded by £50,000 a year from an anonymous benefactor. Baroness Seacombe, a Tory Party vice-chairman responsible for promoting women's issues, is the group's president. Over

the summer it is planning a media offensive to try to extol the virtues of GP fundholding.

Yesterday Dr Goldsmith said: "We do not ask our members about their political affiliation. If I had to guess I would say most are sympathetic to the Tory party. Anyone can join as long as they support the reforms. We are not run by the Tory party. We are encouraged by it, which does not make us a secret society. We will be campaigning in the summer but I am not prepared to disclose our tactics."

The NHS Network is based in an office in Roehampton, west London, and has appointed a part-time administrator, Dr Goldsmith, who is based in Northampton, worked in the NHS until 1981 and has been an adviser to six successive health secretaries.

He said: "We are network of people in the health service who have been mobilised to convey a positive message about the changes. We do not spell out our political affiliation. We just take people to task when they argue that the NHS is being destroyed by the Government. It is not. It has been streamlined into an efficient organisation which is caring for more people."

"Health will be a key electoral battleground in the run-up to the election. Labour will

be fighting hard. We will be in the fore of the battle and fighting hard for the Government."

Dr Goldsmith said that it would be unrealistic to expect NHS Network members to disclose their affiliation when speaking to the media. "It would not be right to do so because the network is not a political forum but a gathering of committed medical professionals with a shared interest in making the service work better for the patients."

In the past members have intervened after a hostile Audit Commission report on GP fundholders, and over nurses pay and waiting lists.

The Tories became embroiled in controversy at the last election when it was disclosed that a similar organisation, NHS Task Force, was being run from within Conservative Central Office by a former ministerial special adviser who was a paid party employee. The Tory party does not provide any resources for the NHS Network.

Labour promised yesterday that it would not rid NHS trust boards of Tory political appointees and fill them with Labour councillors. In a Fabian Society lecture, Alan Milburn, a health spokesman, said that Labour would make appointments on merit rather than political patronage.

Cash gets Europe rebellion under way

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

MORE Tory divisions on Europe will be exposed next week when at least 50 MPs are expected to rebel against the Government and vote for a referendum on Britain's future in Europe.

The Referendum Bill, published yesterday, will be introduced in the Commons on Tuesday by the Euro-sceptic MP Bill Cash, under the ten-minute rule. It is endorsed by Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party in a full-page advertisement in *The Times* today.

The former minister John Redwood is planning talks with Mr Cash about the Bill, which stops short of calling for withdrawal from Europe. Voters are asked instead to say "yes" or "no" to the question: "Do you want the UK to propose and insist on irreversible changes in the Treaty on European Union so that the UK retains its powers of government and is not part of a European monetary union, including a single currency?"

The Referendum Party, which plans to field up to 600 candidates at the general election, says in its advertisement that the Bill addresses the "fundamental national issue" should the UK, as a continuing member of the EU, be part of a European federal superstate or a Europe of nations? "Elections have never been granted a choice. The

Government is not credible when it argues that there will be no federal Europe so long as it's in power."

Mr Cash, who claims to have cross-party support, wants the referendum to be held before the conclusion of the inter-governmental conference on the Maastricht treaty in September 1997. He has not ruled out the Gold-



smith option of a referendum on polling day.

The diplomatic war with Europe over beef is expected to swell support for the Bill. The former whipless rebels met Mr Cash yesterday and pledged their backing.

The Bill is expected to attract support similar to that in April for Iain Duncan Smith's proposed curb on the

European Court, which was backed by 66 Tories. Mr Duncan Smith, one of the most respected Euro-sceptics, said: "I will support the Cash Bill. It is a sensible measure."

But a senior pro-Europe Tory said: "The Referendum Bill may avoid the question of staying in or out but it is an attempt at withdrawal from Europe by the backdoor."

Referendum Bill dodges only question that counts

The Tory Euro-sceptics are trying to have it both ways — arguing for a Europe of independent nations without admitting the inevitable consequences. Their demands go well beyond resisting further integration or opposing British participation in monetary union. The sceptics want to repatriate existing powers of EU institutions by unilateral decisions such as the imposition of a fishing limit around Britain or making Parliament supreme over the rulings of the European Court of Justice. But these demands involve more than Britain being on the outer tier of a multi-tier EU. They are really about whether Britain stays in the EU.

That is why Bill Cash's Bill on a referendum on Europe — to be debated under the 10 minute rule procedure next Tuesday — is flawed. He has been consistent, and persistent, in his argument that the Maastricht treaty has already created what he terms "federal" arrangements, and these must now be renegotiated. The British opt-in/opt-out on monetary union is not enough, he argues. So a clear expression of public views is therefore needed to determine Britain's negotiating position on the inter-governmental conference.

In a letter to fellow MPs, Mr Cash misrepresents the results of a MORI poll in *The Times* last week. He says the poll showed that "60 per cent actively oppose a federal

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Europe and all this involves. Only 15 per cent support one." The poll did not ask about a federal Europe. What it did ask was a series of questions about specific proposals for closer integration. Mr Cash has picked the question showing the greatest opposition, about the transfer of more powers to the European Parliament from individual national parliaments. Opposition to other proposals, such as a Supreme Court of Europe and even a single currency, is generally much smaller.

Moreover, the Bill has been sloppily drafted. In his eagerness to prevent EU institutions participating in, or financing, one side in the campaign, Mr Cash has got in a muddle over electoral law. Clause 6 (1) says "no person, body or organisation involved in the referendum campaign shall be entitled to expend or provide sums of money from any sources which exceeds the amount which would be allowed by law if the referendum campaign were a general election". But there are no legal restrictions on spending in national campaigns. The only limits apply to spending on behalf of an individual candidate in a constituency, which are irrelevant to a national referendum.

Contrary to the longstanding Tory opposition to state funding, the Bill also proposes that the taxpayer should

Peer tries to calm judicial dispute

By James Landale

LABOUR tried yesterday to calm the growing dispute between the Government and the judiciary, calling for self-restraint from both sides.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Shadow Lord Chancellor, said there was rising public concern over the "unprecedented antagonism" between judges and ministers as both sides accused the other of encroaching on their powers. But he supported ministers by warning judges against attacking government policy in public.

"I think judges would be wise to confine themselves to controversy about the administration of justice," he told the House of Lords. "If they engage more extensively in political controversy, they risk undermining public confidence in their political impartiality."

He said he had no wish to censor judges, but added: "It is only if that self-restraint is displayed on both sides that the public will have confidence that the separation of powers is alive and working well."

His remarks follow recent criticism by several judges of Michael Howard's mandatory sentencing reforms. They have accused the Home Secretary of usurping powers that should lie with the courts.

At the same time, Mr Howard has attacked recent court judgments that have overturned decisions he had made under statutory and prerogative powers.

partly finance the rival campaigns, though both the amounts and the criteria for grants are vague. New controls are also proposed on coverage by the broadcasters to ensure "full impartiality and relevance".

The real weakness in the Bill is the proposed question — "do you want the UK to propose and insist on irreversible changes in the treaty on European Union, so that the UK retains its powers of government and is not part of a federal Europe nor part of a European monetary union, including a single currency?" The Government has already promised a referendum on a single currency. The rest of the question amounts to a general and confusing demand for a renegotiation of Britain's membership of the EU. But like the other sceptics, Mr Cash is reluctant to pose the underlying question of whether Britain stays in or gets out of the EU.

As last week's MORI poll showed, there is still a small majority for British membership. This is despite the beef confrontation which threatens to be a quagmire for the Major Government. The real choice facing Britain is whether to remain in the EU and reach the compromises which that entails, or whether to leave, as the sceptics' demands imply. That is the only genuine question for a referendum.

PETER RIDDELL

Ashdown champions the poor

By Alice Thomson

PADDY ASHDOWN promised to make the Liberal Democrats the "voice of the underclass" yesterday when he announced his party's proposed 50p top rate of tax.

Mr Ashdown, the party leader, said that raising tax on incomes of more than £100,000 would enable the Government to take up to 750,000 people on low incomes out of taxation altogether.

The proposal is the main piece of the party's new Helping Hand programme of tax and benefit reforms aimed at breaking the poverty trap.

In a challenge to Labour, which has consistently refused to spell out its tax plans, he said the Liberal Democrats were offering a "clear, costed, committed" programme.

Mr Ashdown warned Tony Blair of the dangers of political "timidity" — going into the election unwilling to be the voice of the poor. "We are determined that we will provide that voice," he said. "We provide a sharp contrast with Labour's hands-off approach to people let down, left out and left behind."

Labour MPs join fight against PR

By James Landale, Political Reporter

ROY HATTERSLEY and Gerald Kaufman launched a national campaign by Labour MPs against electoral reform yesterday.

The two former Labour ministers say that their experience in the Lib-Lab pact of the late 1970s convinced them that coalition government — an inevitable result of proportional representation (PR) — did not work.

More than 100 Labour MPs have joined the First Past the Post Group, which supports the present constituency-based voting system. They are sending letters and leaflets to local Labour parties, the trade unions, and the public to argue their case against PR.

Tony Blair has committed Labour to holding a referendum on PR but the party leader said recently that he has yet to be convinced of its merits.

Although there are many types of PR, each party would get the number of MPs in Parliament that most closely represents their share of the vote. As such, smaller parties such as the Liberal Demo-

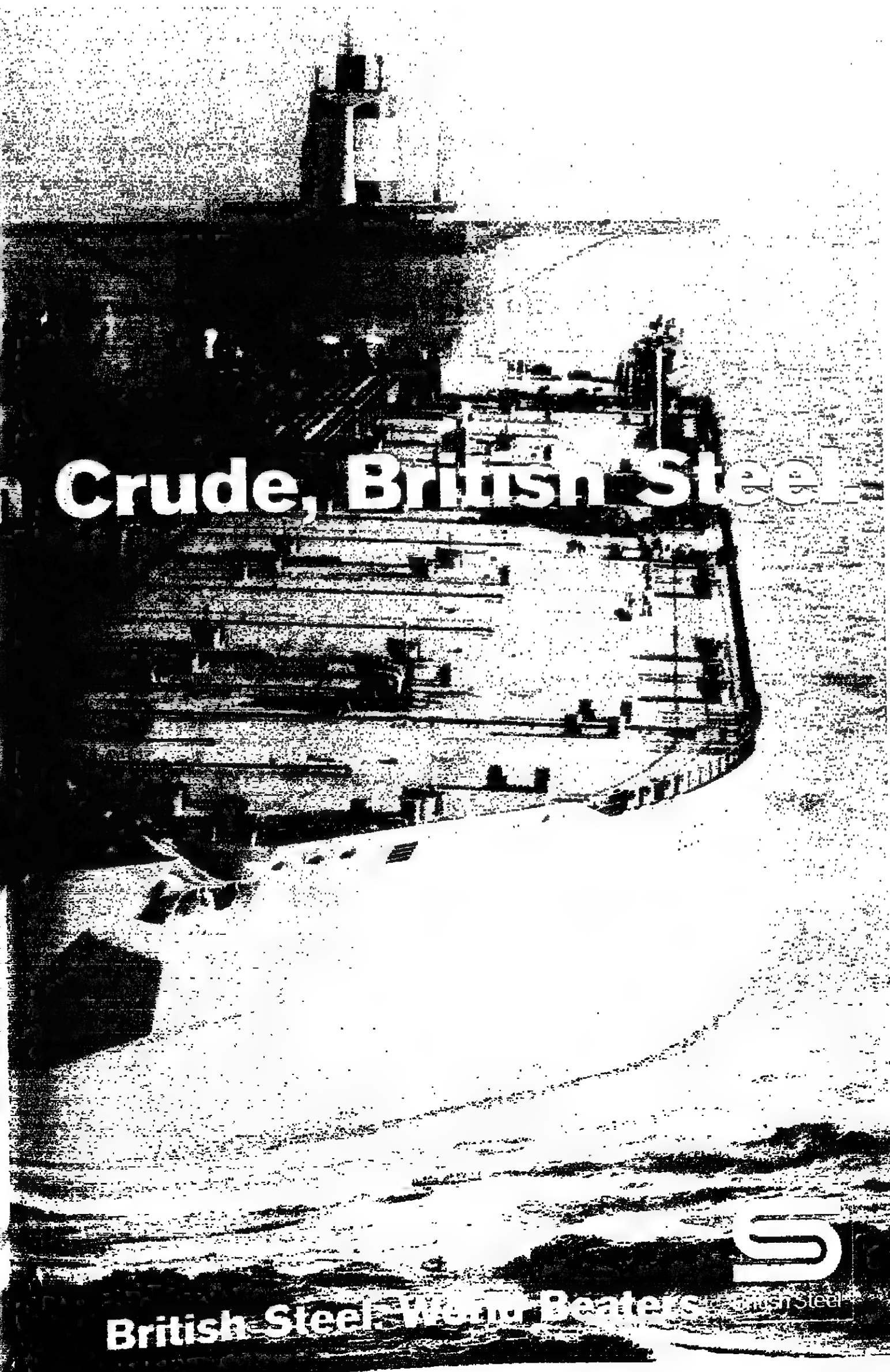
crats, the most ardent advocates of PR, would have more MPs than now. If Tony Blair entered any agreement with the Liberal Democrats after the general election, he might be forced to give ground towards some form of PR.

The new group argues that PR would give small, extremist parties "undue access to power", destroy the relationship between MPs and their constituents, and lead to weak coalition governments. They also admit openly that PR would cut the number of Labour MPs.

Mr Hattersley said: "Groups which commanded a small proportion of the popular vote would hold the major parties to ransom. I joined the Labour Party to change the nature of society. That objective cannot be achieved by a coalition government."

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: Home Office questions; debates on the Royal Air Force and on the effect of century date change on computer systems. In the Lords: Dogs (Fouling of Land) Bill, third reading; Housing Bill, committee; debate on Healthcare 2000 report.



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Yasser Arafat, left, President Mubarak of Egypt, centre, and King Hussein of Jordan, arrive at the resort of Aqaba for a summit yesterday

Britain warns Netanyahu not to crush Palestinian hopes

By Christopher Walker
MIDDLE EAST
CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN yesterday warned Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's hardline Prime Minister-elect, that Israeli hopes for lasting peace with the Arabs would fail, if he trampled on Palestinian aspirations for statehood.

The blunt warning, just two days after John Major hosted Yasser Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority, at 10 Downing Street, was delivered in Cairo by Jeremy Hanley, Foreign Office Minister for Hong Kong and the Middle East.

"Never say never, otherwise you are not going to have a comprehensive, just and agreed solution which people can settle upon in the long term," he said, commenting on Mr Netanyahu's campaign pledge never to permit a Palestinian state to be established on the former land of British-mandated Palestine.

"Do not rule out by saying 'no statehood, never' because that cuts out proper negotiation and discussion. You should not remove the legitimate aspirations of individuals ahead of negotiations," Mr Hanley added.

His remarks were seen as amplification of a speech made during the election campaign by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary. Mr Rifkind infuriated many Israelis by declaring that Israel could not unilaterally impose an agreement on the Palestinians and accusing it of maintaining a "military occupation" in annexed east Jerusalem.

Mr Hanley was speaking at three Arab leaders — Pres-

ident Mubarak of Egypt, King Hussein of Jordan and Mr Arafat — held a summit to coordinate reaction to the Netanyahu election victory.

The meeting led Mr Hanley to praise Mr Mubarak for his efforts to "gather opinion constructively" from other Arab leaders before passing judgment on Mr Netanyahu. An Egyptian, Syrian and Saudi Arabian summit is scheduled for this weekend.

The Palestinians fear that Mr Netanyahu will stick by campaign pledges and refuse to discuss the final status of Jerusalem, as laid down in the 1993 peace accord signed in Washington.

They also fear that he will delay the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank city of Hebron, which was initially agreed by the defeated Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, for June 12.

"Do not say we will never discuss the status of Jerusalem," Mr Hanley pleaded at a news conference that appeared certain to increase the strain on Anglo-Israeli relations sparked by Mr Rifkind's outspoken speech last month. "The status of Jerusalem is

part of what has to be discussed and agreed upon between parties, if we are to have a lasting peace," Mr Hanley added.

In his controversial address last month, Mr Rifkind openly welcomed the decision by the Israeli Labour Party to drop from its election platform its opposition to the formation of a Palestinian state — a move which many Israeli commentators have since claimed played a part in Mr Peres's defeat.

Yesterday after the summit at the Red Sea port of Aqaba, Mr Arafat repeated his belief that there will be a Palestinian state, despite the victory of Mr

Netanyahu's Likud Party. "Sooner or later, there will be a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital," Mr Arafat told a news conference given by the three leaders.

At that point, King Hussein interrupted the Palestinian leader to add that Jordan will never be a substitute homeland for the Palestinians — a notion often floated by the Likud Party on the basis that more than one-half of the desert kingdom's population of nearly four million is Palestinian.

Although the summit was intended to convey an image of Arab solidarity in the face of Israel's election upset, the absence of Syria — still at odds with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Jordan over their willingness to cut separate peace deals with Israel — was a reminder of the divisions which remain in the Arab camp.

Yesterday the daily Baghdad Observer, a mouthpiece for President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, gave a warning of popular revolts among Arabs whose leaders have signed peace treaties with Israel. "This humiliating policy of some Arab rulers is creating a

sense of resentment among the vast majority of Arab masses," the paper said. "This in turn will breed violence".

In a surprise overture to Syria, run by a rival wing of the Baath Party, the paper said that, after the Netanyahu victory, Syria and Iraq should abandon their differences and confront Israel's threats. "To counter renewed Zionist challenges, Syrian-Iraqi relations should be normalised and restored as a vital and necessary step," it added.

As for the possibility of peace between Israel and Arab states such as Syria, Dr Gold said: "I live by a simple axiom — one cannot expect that peace between Israel and the Arab states would be any greater than it is between the Arab states themselves."

Marwan Kanafani, spokesman for Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian President, said: "I think the President is surprised [by Mr Netanyahu's victory] but he is determined to co-operate with any person directed by the Israelis to occupy the office of Prime Minister."

Hanley: there must be proper negotiation

Likud 'is more able to secure peace', aide says

FROM ROSS DUNN
IN JERUSALEM

A KEY adviser to Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister-elect, says the new Likud Government will be better able to secure peace in the Middle East than the last Labour administration.

Dore Gold, a leading strategic analyst, is expected to be formally appointed soon as a foreign policy adviser to Mr Netanyahu. He disputed the common wisdom that the peace process would collapse under a Likud-led administration.

Dr Gold was speaking after making the first official contact since the poll between Likud and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Dr Gold said that a mechanism would be created to forge contacts between Israel and the PLO once Mr Netanyahu has formed a coalition. "People should be aware of the record of conservative governments around the world in securing peace," he said. Examples included the Reagan Administration's record in bringing the Cold War to an end. "Here in the Middle East, we have the example of the Likud Government under Menachem Begin, who reached a peace treaty with Egypt," Dr Gold said.

He said a Likud Government would be stronger than a Labour one in taking the PLO to task over violations of the peace accord. Since Labour had initiated the deal it had trouble dealing with violations, he added. A government which had not started the process would have fewer problems than one which had so much political capital invested in the accord.

As for the possibility of peace between Israel and Arab states such as Syria, Dr Gold said: "I live by a simple axiom — one cannot expect that peace between Israel and the Arab states would be any greater than it is between the Arab states themselves."

Marwan Kanafani, spokesman for Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian President, said: "I think the President is surprised [by Mr Netanyahu's victory] but he is determined to co-operate with any person directed by the Israelis to occupy the office of Prime Minister."

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Republicans hope to sink Clinton in wave of scandal

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON was rife with charge and counter-charge yesterday as Republicans strove to smother the Clinton White House with scandals.

Senate Whitewater committee Republicans accused their Democratic colleagues of a cover-up after they refused to grant David Hale, a former Arkansas financier and Clinton foe, immunity from prosecution if he testified about various financial shenanigans in Little Rock when Mr Clinton was Governor.

Among other things, Mr Hale claims Mr Clinton pressured him to make an illegal \$300,000 (£193,000) loan to his partners in the Whitewater Development Company from government-insured funds earmarked for the economically disadvantaged.

William Clinger, Republican chairman of the House "Travelgate" committee, accused the White House of illegally using the FBI to smear one of the seven members of the White House Travel Office in order to justify their controversial 1993 dismissal. He produced a subpoenaed document showing that Bernard Nussbaum, the former White House counsel, requested and obtained FBI files on Billy Dale, the Office head, seven months after his dismissal.

Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, flourished an article in the conservative American Spectator claiming the White House delayed announcing the death of Ron Brown, the Commerce Secretary, in an April plane crash until incriminating papers covering his financial dealings were re-



Clinton: well ahead of Dole in polls

moved from his office. The White House furiously denied the charge.

The mystery of Hillary Clinton's lost-and-found legal records was deepened by the release of an FBI fingerprint analysis which Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor, ordered in an attempt to discover who concealed the subpoenaed documents for two years before they were inexplicably found on a table in the Clintons' private quarters.

The FBI identified two of the First Lady's fingerprints on the documents, which detailed her work for Madison Guaranty, the corrupt Arkansas bank at the heart of the Whitewater affair. It also identified prints belonging to Vincent Foster, the deputy White House counsel who killed himself in 1993; Carolyn Huber, the assistant to Mrs

Clinton who found the documents on the table; and three other lowly figures who worked either for Mrs Clinton's former law firm or the Clintons' private lawyer in Washington. A White House spokesman said the analysis "completely undermines" Republican claims that the three Clinton aides who searched Mr Foster's office after his suicide illegally spirited away the documents. The FBI found none of their prints.

Mr Gingrich predicted during a private meeting of Republican officials that scandal would cost Mr Clinton the White House. But a new poll for The New York Times showed Mr Clinton enjoys a 19-point lead over Bob Dole, his Republican challenger.

□ Roosevelt wins: Hall Delano Roosevelt, 36, grandson of former President Roosevelt, has won a seat on the Long Beach City Council's fourth district in California, election officials said. (Reuters)

William Rees-Mogg, page 20



Flames reach the shoreline of Birch Lake in Alaska as firefighters struggled in gusty winds to stop the spread of a 6,000-acre blaze that has forced the evacuation of up to 1,000 residents from communities north of Anchorage.

Tony Knowles, the Governor, declared the fire zone a disaster area and asked the state legislature and the federal Government for emergency money to help those who lost

Winds fan Alaska forest fire

homes and to continue fighting the fire raging in America's largest state. The blaze began on Sunday in a popular recreation area and was held to 68 acres until winds fanned it out of control late on Monday, said Gary Lehnhausen of the state's Division of Forestry.

Winds continued to feed the

flames, and by Tuesday a massive wall of grey smoke was visible from Anchorage, 50 miles to the south. Between 50 and 100 homes have been destroyed so far.

Firefighters have discovered evidence of campfires and fireworks near the point where the blaze originated — signs, they believe, that

the blaze was caused by human activity. Damage is estimated at \$28 million (£18 million).

Wild fires are common in the late spring and summer in Alaska, although they generally hit unpopulated areas and are allowed to burn themselves out. By Tuesday, 343 fires throughout the state had burned over some 25,000 acres, the Alaska Interagency Fire Co-ordination Centre said. (Reuters)

Old theatre moving with Times Square

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

DEVELOPERS plan to pick up and move a 750-seat theatre as Times Square is transformed from a tawdry red-light district into an entertainment mecca for tourists.

The landmark Empire Theatre will be trundled down 42nd Street to a new site about 70ft away to make room for a 25-screen cinema.

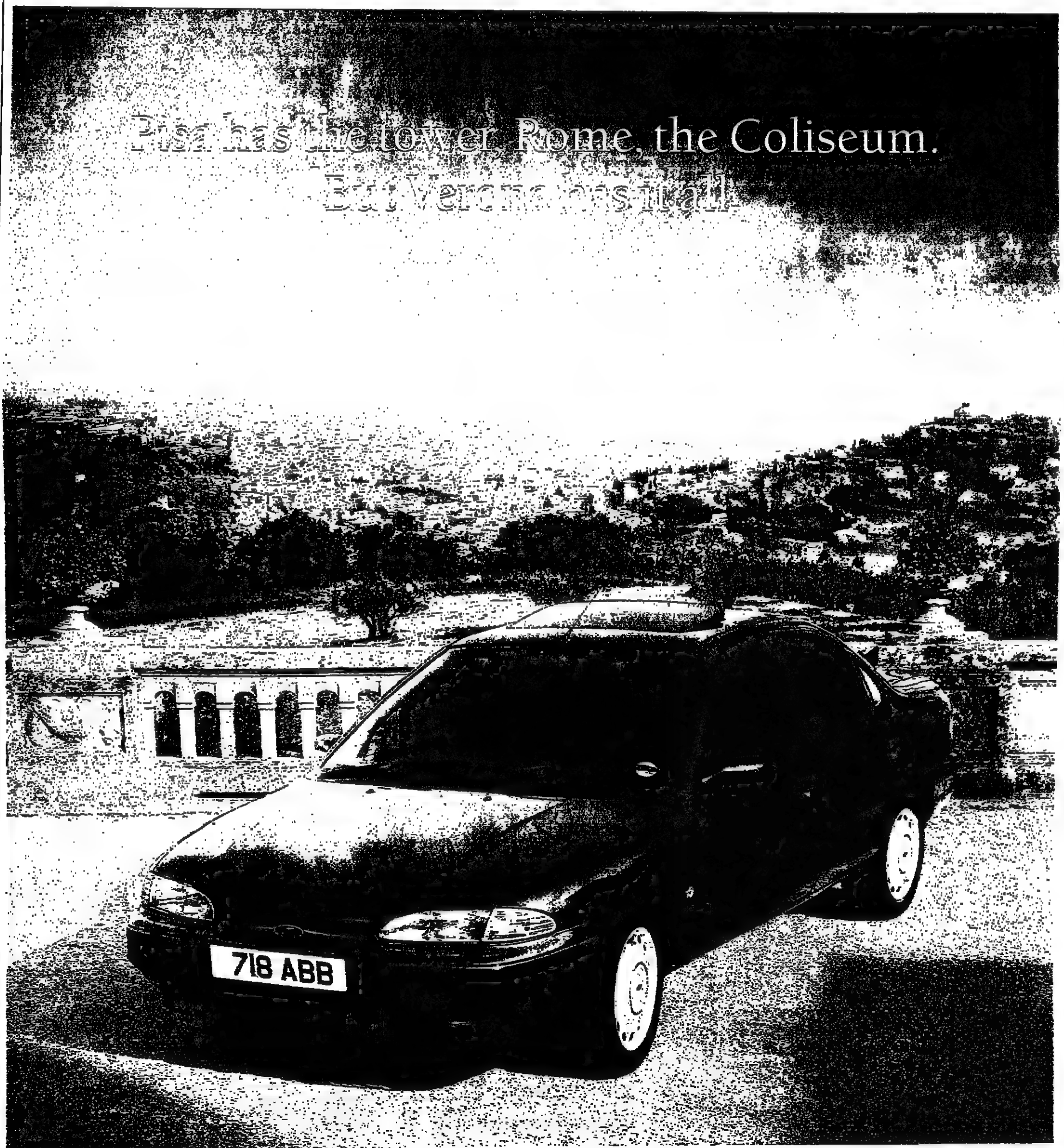
The scheme to move the 93-year-old Empire is the most ambitious engineering feat in the wholesale redevelopment of the "Street of Dreams", which had fallen prey to violence and pornography.

Forest City Ratner Companies, the developer building the new cineplex, is moving the Empire because it takes up

too much space, yet cannot be demolished because it is a protected building. The theatre, which closed in the mid-1980s after a spell as a cinema, will be raised off its foundations and put on steel rails for its journey.

In its new position, the theatre, which has a lavish interior with Greek, Roman and Egyptian motifs, will serve as the entrance and lobby of the cinema complex.

Just yards away will be a new waxwork museum planned for 42nd Street by Madame Tussaud's. Disney is renovating the New Amsterdam Theatre on the same block to stage big musicals based on its films.



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Nato fears Islamic takeover as Turkish coalition bickers



Ciller faces investigation into her personal wealth

FROM MICHAEL BINYON
IN ISTANBUL

IN THE full glare of 155 nations attending the United Nations Habitat international housing conference, Turkey's tottering Government is likely to collapse before the end of the week.

The fall of Mesut Yilmaz's centre-right coalition, undermined by the Prime Minister's bitter personal feud with Tansu Ciller, his predecessor and now his nominal coalition ally, may lead to the triumph of the opposition Islamists, bringing to power an openly religious party for the first time since Atatürk imposed a secular constitution more than 70 years ago.

Such a move would send shock waves throughout Nato, and could call into question the pro-Western policies and orientation that have

made Turkey a bedrock of the Atlantic alliance since the Second World War. The advent of an Islamic government could also alarm investors and financial circles, accelerating Turkey's rampant inflation. It would undermine the West's attempt to protect Iraq's Kurds from President Saddam Hussein and give comfort to Islamic fundamentalism throughout the Middle East.

The writing has been on the wall for Mr Yilmaz, of the Motherland Party, since he threatened to send Mrs Ciller, leader of the True Path Party, to the Supreme Court on suspicion of having set up a slush fund for her use. She is strongly contesting the charges, and has promised to support a no-confidence motion against Mr Yilmaz, to be tabled in parliament on Saturday by Necmettin Erbakan,

the leader of the pro-Islamic Welfare Party. Mrs Ciller's deputies decided yesterday to support her vote against Mr Yilmaz, making his defeat seem certain. This could lead to fresh elections, or to a new coalition headed by Mr Erbakan. Meanwhile, parliament voted to investigate the sources of Mrs Ciller's personal wealth.

All this week there have been frantic attempts to patch up the present secular Government, quaintly known as the Motherpath coalition. But the personal enmity between the two party leaders, and a series of false moves by both sides, has, if anything, deepened the rift. Mr Yilmaz has tried to push Mrs Ciller into a corner, but Turkey's "Iron Lady" is as much a fighter as her role model, Margaret

Thatcher. Waiting in the wings is the army, traditionally the guardian of Atatürk's secular legacy, which has twice before brutally intervened to dispatch bickering politicians. Many Turks, voicing conspiracy theories, also say the Americans would not allow the Islamists to come to power. The main threat would be to American bases in Turkey, especially to Incirlik, the base for Operation Provide Comfort, to help Iraqi Kurds and police the "no-fly zone" over northern Iraq.

The mandate for this operation is up for renewal at the end of this month, and the Americans have been lobbying political leaders, though even the present Defence Minister is likely to tell Nato's defence planning committee that there are not enough parliamentary votes to extend it.

Turkey's political drift is having serious economic consequences. Rampant inflation remains unchecked, and the latest consumer price index rose a further 4.5 per cent in May, giving a yearly inflation rate of 82.9 per cent. The possibility of fresh elections has already scared the private sector into raising prices. The International Monetary Fund, in a strongly worded letter to the Government, has painted a bleak picture, with warnings of higher inflation and a budget deficit double what the Government foresees.

During a visit to Brussels this week, Mr Yilmaz has appeared to soften towards Mrs Ciller, and has suggested a possible meeting with her on his return. But as one observer said: "Turkish politics is a game of chess which nobody knows how to play properly."

Gorbachev revels in limelight on the campaign trail

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN KAZAN, RUSSIA

AS THE instantly recognisable balding head of Mikhail Gorbachev piloted a course through the crowd, the packed hall at the Kazan Technical University broke into whistles and applause.

About 600 people were jammed in, standing in the aisles and sitting on top of each other under the stern gaze of a portrait of the university's rector.

"I attribute immense importance to this election campaign," Mr Gorbachev said from the lectern. "You are under a complete information blockade." The excited reception for the former Soviet President in Kazan, 500 miles east of Moscow, belies the idea that he is universally hated in Russia. But for many he is just a celebrity.

"I am in shock," said Alsu, a young secretary. "I have seen Mikhail Gorbachev in the flesh." Yevgeni Shuklin, a middle-aged engineer who accuses Mr Gorbachev of indecisiveness, said: "People have come to see the man of mystery. He is a good man, but this country needs a tough man."

Despite very low poll ratings, Mr Gorbachev is clearly enjoying the campaign. After five years of what he calls "political exile" following his abrupt exit from high office in 1991, he has a chance to put his side of the argument.

"Their main tactic is to shut Gorbachev up, and that is why I am travelling," he told *The Times*. "The auditoriums are always full. I answer questions for two or three hours. I am live on local television, and in places where state television does not let me on air I am on private chan-

nels. So Gorbachev's glasnost is working."

The man who delivers four-hour speeches is not contrite. He answered each question for ten or 15 minutes, often straying from the topic to touch the same point: how he had sought to keep the Soviet Union together in 1991 but had been foiled by Boris Yeltsin on the one hand and the August coup plotters on the other; and how he had set out on a course of gradual reform which had been wrecked by Mr Yeltsin.

He was besieged with questions about his hugely unpopular anti-alcohol campaign of 1985 and 1986, when vodka



disappeared from the shops. It had been carried out "idiotically," Mr Gorbachev conceded, but the principles had been right because drunkenness was destroying Russian industry. He turned over the next written question: "How much will a bottle of vodka cost?"

The former President now firmly identifies himself with what he calls the "democratic movement". The campaign has been made into a trap, he says, in which voters are being told there are only two candidates, President Yeltsin and Gennadi Zyuganov, the Com-

munist leader, and all other votes are wasted. As far as he was concerned, "it is the difference between two shoes, a left one and a right one. They both belong to the Communist system".

A touch of venom entered his voice when he talked about Mr Yeltsin, who ejected him from the Kremlin in December 1991. Their rivalry dates from 1987 when Mr Gorbachev dismissed Mr Yeltsin as head of the Moscow Communist Party, although he gave him a government job and let him stay in the capital. He was asked how he would have treated Mr Yeltsin then, knowing what later developed. "I would have sent him to Africa!" Mr Gorbachev cried.

He clearly over-estimates the effect his campaign is having. Opinion polls have not given him more than 2 per cent of the vote, which would put him in seventh or eighth place in a field of 11 on June 16. Workers and pensioners cannot forgive him for "destroying the Soviet Union".

"That we are here at all is all due to Gorbachev," argued Gabit Rusa, who runs a local Muslim charity and is that rare phenomenon — a committed Gorbachev voter. "We should put up a statue to him, but it will take people 20 years to realise that."

When Mr Gorbachev emerged on to the sunny street, an old lady pushed her granddaughters through the crowds to catch a glimpse of the elder statesman. A dozen cameras clicked and policemen cracked jokes. For them it was a relaxing assignment before President Yeltsin hits Kazan on Sunday.



A young Yeltsin supporter holding up a poster of the Russian leader with the slogan "Our President" outside the parliament in Moscow yesterday

Briton in line for top Australian police job

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE
IN SYDNEY

PETER RYAN, 52, a Briton who has emerged as front-runner for Australia's top police job, Commissioner for New South Wales, would be moving to a force where more than 200 officers have criminal records, it emerged yesterday.

Paul Whelan, the New South Wales Police Minister, stunned the state parliament with the disclosure that so many officers in the 13,000-strong force have serious criminal convictions: their offences include drug dealing, possession of explosives, malicious injury and sex crimes.

Mr Whelan said: "There are too many police with serious criminal convictions still serving in the New South Wales police service. The community has a right to expect the highest possible standards from police."

He said they had managed to avoid dismissal through "complex and convoluted" appeals, and because the process of removing them was time-consuming and ineffectual.

The disclosure looks set to damage further the integrity of the state force, which is already reeling from an investigation over the past year by a Royal Commission which uncovered widespread corruption and misconduct and led to the resignation of several senior officers. Many hope that the appointment of an outsider such as Mr Ryan to head the force will help to restore public confidence.

Mr Ryan began his career as a constable in Lancashire, moved to the Metropolitan Police in 1983 and later became Chief Constable of Norfolk. He is currently head of the Police Staff College at Bramshill, Hampshire.

Nigerians protest at murder

Lagos: Thousands of Nigerians demonstrated yesterday over the killing of the wife of Chief Moshood Abiola, the detained opposition leader. An opposition alliance called the shooting an assassination.

Kudirat Abiola, 44, the senior of Chief Abiola's several wives, was shot in her car in Lagos on Tuesday. Her driver also died. Nigeria has been in crisis since former military rulers annulled a June 1993 election deemed to have been won by the chief, a millionaire businessman being held on treason charges. (Reuters)

Lesotho verdict

Maseru: A Scotland Yard inquiry into the death of King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho, who died in a road accident, has concluded that the driver had been drinking and fell asleep at the wheel. (AFP)

Captain freed

Dar es Salaam: Tanzanian authorities have dropped murder charges against Jumanne Rume, captain of a ferry which sank on Lake Victoria killing hundreds of people. He was freed from prison. (Reuters)

New navy chief

Washington: President Clinton appointed Admiral Jay Johnson, 50, a former fighter pilot, to be the new chief of the US Navy, succeeding Admiral Mike Boorda, who committed suicide. (AFP)

Geologist killed

Manila: A Canadian geologist was killed when a helicopter surveying an Australian copper and gold-mining project was shot at by an unidentified gunman over Kasibu in the northern Philippines. (Reuters)

Seoul fury as denies war

SOUTH Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday denied reports that Asian nations would be involved in a new war.

The claim comes as a member of the United Nations Security Council's lower house, the General Assembly, is expected to vote on a resolution condemning the Japanese Imperial Army's actions in the Pacific during the Second World War.

Women gathered at the Japanese Embassy in Seoul to demand that the Japanese government apologise for its actions during the war and pay compensation to the victims.

The Japanese government has refused to do so, claiming that the war was fought for the benefit of all Asians.

The resolution, which was drafted by the United States, calls for the Japanese government to acknowledge its responsibility for the war and to pay compensation to the victims.

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Alcatraz ensures captive audience for premiere

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

AN INMATE once called it "the island of the living dead", but Hollywood turned Alcatraz into something livelier for the world premiere of Sean Connery's latest action extravaganza.

Taking the art of the publicity stunt to new extremes, the grim concrete exercise yard of the old "super-prison" in San Francisco Bay was turned into a tented screening room. The event, launching the summer run of Disney's *The Rock* in the face of stiff competition from other studios, brought new meaning to the term captive audience.

It also completed a strange transformation for the dread Alcatraz, which once held America's worst criminals. J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI director, liked to say that "even dead men leave the Rock in handcuffs".

The bleak island is now San Francisco's most popular tourist attraction and a trendy corporate hospitality venue. A local banking executive recently spent \$100,000 (£65,000) to host a dinner on Alcatraz. The Walt Disney Company spent much more than that converting the island into a cinema, but earned much-needed headlines in the process.

Rival studios have already set a furious pace in the seasonal dash for box-office supremacy. *Twister* (Warner Bros/Universal) and *Mission Impossible* (Paramount) have each taken more than \$100 million in their first few days. *The Rock* may yet surpass both, thanks to good reviews, especially for Connery's co-star, Nicolas Cage, who won this year's Best Actor Oscar.

In another Hollywood dra-

ma, the makers of *Striptease*, in which Demi Moore appears naked, are wondering if they will ever recoup their investment. The film's release has been postponed a month while crucial scenes are reshot in a hurried attempt to dissociate it from the disaster that was *Showgirls*.

America appears tired of sex at the cinema. *Showgirls* promised a torrid exposé of Las Vegas lap dancing but flopped embarrassingly last year.

Castle Rock Pictures is therefore trying to persuade test audiences that *Striptease*, for which Ms Moore was paid \$12 million (£7.7 million), is nothing like it. But viewers are reportedly failing to laugh when they find the film is now being billed as a comedy.

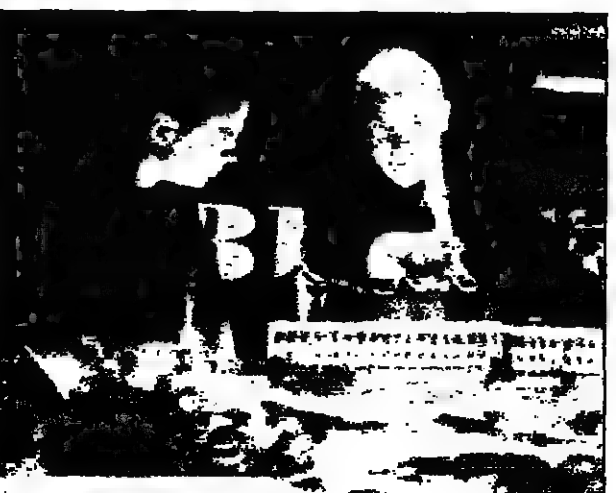
Other studios have taken note. They hope to recoup the losses of a dismal spring by staking everything on the one

genre in which Hollywood still leads the world: wholesome action adventures with no holds barred and preferably no kissing.

Even as American audiences sit enthralled by the special effects of *Twister* and Tom Cruise's *Mission Impossible*, both among the sixth-fastest films of all time to break the \$100 million barrier at the box office, they are bracing themselves for more of the same.

With hardly a weekend's pause, viewers will be offered Arnold Schwarzenegger in *Eraser*, terrorists and ex-convicts in *The Rock*, alien space-ships 15 miles wide in *Independence Day*, and Keanu Reeves racing ice boats across frozen lakes in *Chain Reaction*.

The films have a combined budget of nearly \$300 million, but barely a soft-focus smooch between them.



Nicolas Cage, left, and Sean Connery in *The Rock*

Paris and Bonn edge closer on defence

BY BEN MACINTYRE

FRANCE and Germany agreed to work on a document outlining joint defence policy at yesterday's Franco-German summit in Dijon, as President Chirac and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, sought to inject new warmth into the alliance following an unusually turbulent period.

In another signal of solidarity, they announced that they would hold an additional "friendly working session" in Paris this morning after flying back from the summit together last night.

At their last meeting in Bonn on May 10, the two leaders informally agreed to hold meetings every six weeks. The summits of the European Union and the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations this month are expected to top the agenda in today's talks, along with "mad cow disease".

Paris and Bonn reaffirmed their commitment to a number of joint armaments projects in a further bid to show that recent tensions over defence policy have eased. The French decision last February to end conscription, move to a fully professional army by 2002, and limit defence spending raised fears in Bonn that Paris would reduce orders for jointly produced weapons systems and shift its attention away from the defence of Central Europe.

Charles Millon and Volker Rühe, the French and German Defence Ministers, said they would re-examine joint armaments projects with a view to reducing costs.

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'Tasteless' performance denounced as teacher is suspended over Holocaust question

French swimmers banned from Nazi routine at Olympics

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French Government yesterday banned the national synchronised swimming team from performing a programme depicting the horrors of the Nazi Holocaust at next month's Olympic Games in Atlanta.

The team's plan to have swimmers goose-step into the Olympic pool before performing a four-minute programme representing Jews being selected for the gas chambers at Auschwitz provoked a storm of protests from Jewish and anti-racist groups in France.

Guy Druet, the Sports Minister, stepped in last night and ordered the team to "remove any allusions to the tragedy of the Holocaust" since the planned routine contained messages which could be misinterpreted.

In a separate but related row yesterday, the French Education Ministry suspended a school chemistry teacher who set a test question requiring pupils to calculate the amount of poison gas needed to kill Jewish victims of Nazi genocide.

The two unconnected events had both been condemned as offensive and tasteless by anti-racist and Jewish groups who say that the mass murder of Jews during the Second World

Hong Kong: Adrian de Almeida, 18, a Cantonese schoolboy, yesterday apologised to Hong Kong's Jewish community for any offence caused by his sale of Nazi memorabilia in his city centre shop (Tom Walker writes). He said he wanted only to do competitive business, not spread the idea of Nazism.

War is being trivialised in France, thus promoting racism and encouraging "revisionist" history.

Several spectators objected to early viewings of the swimmers' performance although referees did not. Francis Luyes, the head of the French Swimming Federation, said: "We took a chance."

Nadine Shulman, a chemistry teacher at a school in the Paris suburb of Maurepas, was suspended for using the Holocaust as the basis for a test question for pupils aged 14 and 15. "Hitler killed Jews by locking them in lorries with exhaust fumes fed inside," Mme Shulman's test said.

"With a truck volume of 50 cubic metres, what volume of carbon monoxide does it take

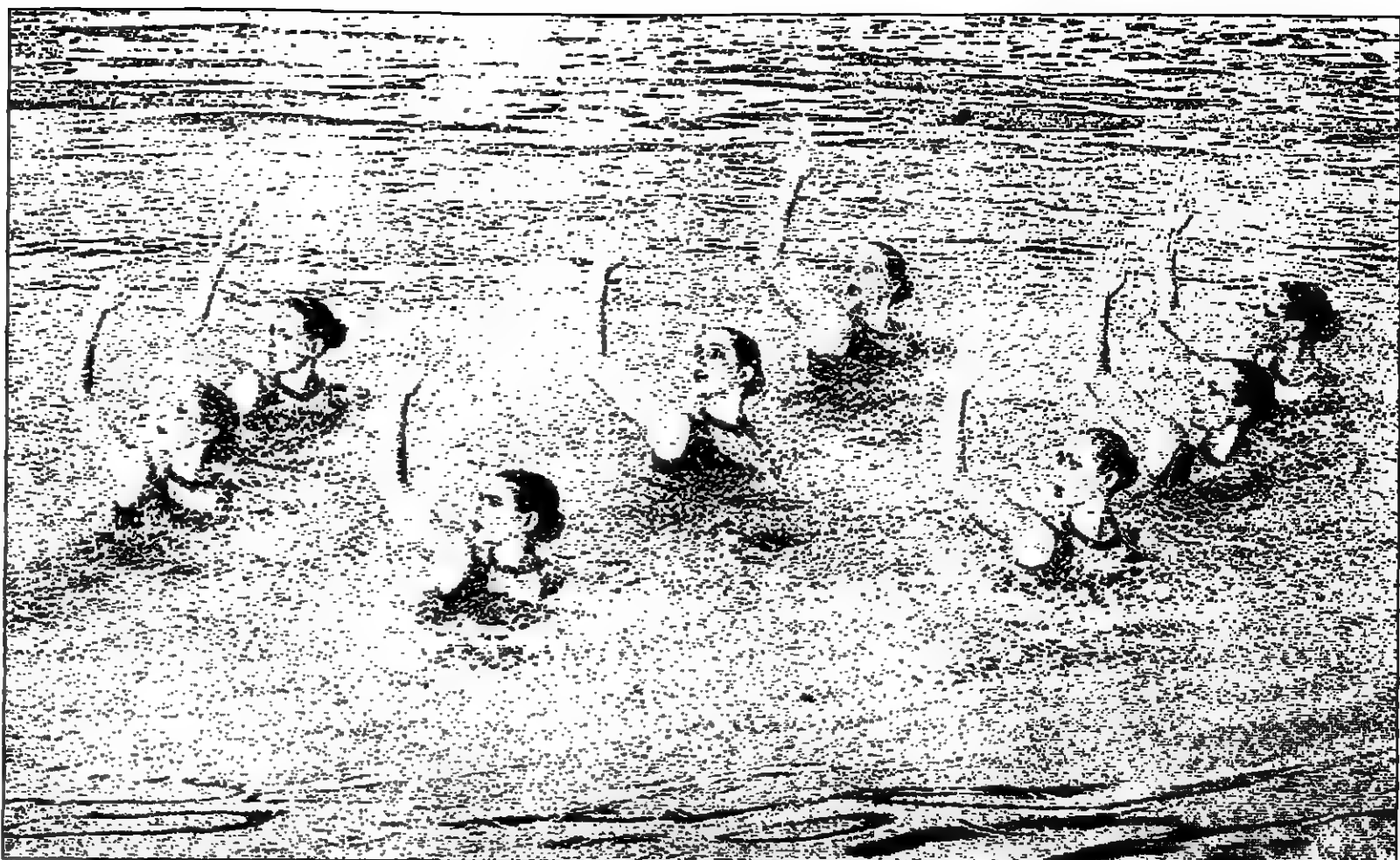
to reach the fatal ratio of five per 1,000? If people took, on average, 20 minutes to die, what volume of carbon monoxide did the engine produce per hour?"

The teacher and the coach of the French synchronised swimming team defended their actions in similar ways, by claiming they were condemning rather than condoning the Holocaust.

Mme Shulman, who is married to a Jew and plans to write a book on the deportation of Jews, said that her test was intended to "denounce the Holocaust and not let it be forgotten", while Odile Petit, the Olympic coach, was quoted as saying: "Our message is an appeal to fight racism."

Jean-Paul Clémenceau, technical director of the French Swimming Federation, said he was shocked by the reaction and insisted that the performance was intended to represent "the struggle against exclusion and intolerance".

Didier Deloris, headmaster of the Sept-Mars school in Maurepas, said he was "stunned and enraged" that one of his staff had required pupils to make such a grotesque calculation. François Bayrou, the Education Minister, con-



Members of the French synchronised swimming team performing earlier this year at the national championships in Amiens

demned the test as "intolerable" and said that Mme Shulman would face disciplinary action.

There are facts which we cannot speak about in a banal way, which belong to the memory of humanity and which must be respected as sacred," the minister said.

The Holocaust motif adopted by the French Olympic synchronised swimming team

had provoked equal fury. "The choice of theme is completely ridiculous and out of place in a sporting event," the Council of Jewish Institutions in France said.

Anti-racist groups argue that reducing the worst mass murder in history to the stuff of mathematical calculation or aquatic ballet was promoting revisionism. The French Movement Against Racism

insisted that treating the murder of Jews as little more than a quiz question was "abominable, immoral and unacceptable".

"How can one still call oneself a teacher while damaging the conscience of young adolescents in this way?" the group demanded.

In New York, a spokesman for the World Jewish Congress said: "This terrible and tragic

period of history has to be dealt with utmost sensitivity", but added: "I believe the intentions of the swimmers are good."

The uproar follows the controversy surrounding Abbé Pierre, the French priest widely condemned for supporting a book by revisionist historian Roger Garaudy which claims the Holocaust has been exaggerated. Abbé Pierre, who

helped to smuggle Jews out of occupied France, has refused to retract his defence of the book, titled *The Founding Myths of Israeli Politics*.

The 83-year-old priest, hitherto consistently voted France's most popular man, is currently "on retreat" in Switzerland. Last week he claimed he was the victim of the media and "the international Zionist lobby".

Seoul fury as Tokyo MP denies war 'sex slavery'

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

SOUTH Koreans reacted furiously yesterday to a headline Japanese politician's claim that Asian women were not forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese Imperial Army, but served in military brothels of their own free will as a "commercial activity".

The claim by Seisuke Okuno, a member of parliament's lower house and former Education Minister, that Japan did no wrong unleashed protests in Seoul, and reinforced Koreans' misgivings about a plan to co-host the World Cup in 2002 with their historical oppressor.

Women gathered outside the Japanese Embassy in Seoul to denounce Mr Okuno's remarks as deeply offensive to the thousands of women coerced into sexual servitude by the Japanese military before and during the Second World War and to reiterate demands that Tokyo make amends to survivors.

"A sincere apology and compensation based on international law should be made to the comfort women if the 2002 World Cup finals are to be co-hosted successfully by Japan and South Korea," said a statement handed out by the protesters, who belong to the Korean Council for Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan. Several Korean newspapers con-

demned Mr Okuno for implying that women volunteered as prostitutes for gain.

Historians say as many as 200,000 women, mostly Korean, were rounded up to serve as sex slaves to the Japanese army as it marched through China and South-East Asia. In 1993 Japan officially acknowledged its involvement in military sexual slavery. But Mr

Japan's forces may have given transport for comfort women, but did not force them to go

Okuno, 82, is one of a growing number of influential conservatives in politics and business trying to "beautify" Japan's image by denying women were coerced into brothels and rebutting atrocities by troops.

On Tuesday, Mr Okuno launched the League to Achieve a Bright Japan comprising 116 backbenchers of the dominant Liberal Democratic Party who want Japan to stop apologising for supposed aggression before and

during the Second World War. The new nationalist pressure group bitterly opposes the decision by Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, to write a letter of apology to former comfort women. Mr Hashimoto admits to difficulty in choosing from among a score of so apologetic expressions, "because I must make sure the content of the letter does not lead to individual lawsuits being lodged". Tokyo is concerned a formal apology may give ammunition to women seeking compensation through the courts.

The Government has ruled out compensation from state coffers and set up the Asian Women's Fund last July to collect private-sector donations. About 300 survivors of wartime sexual slavery living in South Korea, the Philippines and Taiwan will receive at least 2 million yen (£12,000) each, said fund officials yesterday.

Hardline conservatives who have long promoted a sanitised version of history pour contempt on Mr Hashimoto and other government leaders who show remorse for dark chapters of Japan's war record. "The Japanese forces may have arranged transportation for them [comfort women] to go to the war fronts for their job, but did not force them to go," said Mr Okuno.



Ndungane: spent four years on Robben Island

Tutu to be replaced by former prisoner

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

A BLACK cleric who spent four years as a political prisoner on Robben Island, the jail where Nelson Mandela was held for most of his imprisonment, is to succeed Archbishop Desmond Tutu as Primate of South Africa's Cape Town diocese and head of the Anglican Church - the Church of the Province.

Jongonkulu Winston Ndungane, 56, the Bishop of Kimberley and Kuruman, will succeed Archbishop Tutu, 64, who is due to retire at the end of September after ten turbulent years.

Bishop Ndungane has been chosen by an elective assembly of senior clerics and church representatives after a two-day secret conclave in Cape Town. His closest rival was Duncan Buchanan, the Bishop of Johannesburg, but the result of the ballot, in which the successful candidate had to win two-thirds of the 575 votes, was not disclosed.

Like Archbishop Tutu, Bishop Ndungane favours the growing incorporation of African traditional practice, such as dancing and singing, into church ritual and the ordination of women.

The bishop was a member of the Pan Africanist Congress when he was imprisoned in 1963 for furthering the objectives of a banned organisation.

Yesterday he said he received his calling to God "while doing my national service on the island". He said, however, that he had no contact with Mr Mandela who "was a VIP prisoner".

Archbishop Tutu was appointed to his post in 1986 after serving as Bishop of Johannesburg and secretary of the South African Council of Churches.

He identified strongly with the people of Soweto, the sprawling black township outside Johannesburg where he grew up, and adopted the role of a political priest during the worst and most violent years of apartheid.

Burma steps up attack on opposition

FROM REUTER IN RANGOON

BURMA'S military Government broadened its attacks on Aung San Suu Kyi, the democracy leader yesterday with a newspaper commentary saying that she could not be trusted to be a leader because she has a British husband.

Referring to Daw Suu Kyi as the "puppet princess", a commentary in the state-run *New Light of Myanmar* (Burma), said the 1991 Nobel Peace laureate could not be trusted to keep state secrets if she were to become the country's leader.

"Will the wife not let her husband know in the least matters that are connected with the affairs of the State?" asked the

article, which was written under the pen name "Patriot".

The commentary said: "In scrutinising the matter of safeguarding the country from dangers and from the point of view of security of the state, it is quite obvious that she cannot be trusted in the least." Burma's official media are seen as the mouthpiece of the Rangoon military regime, the State Law and Order Restoration Council.

Daw Suu Kyi has repeatedly been attacked verbally for her marriage to Michael Aris, an Oxford academic. The junta says that she is not a true Burmese because she lived abroad for many years and married a foreigner.

Over the past two weeks, Burma has

stepped up its propaganda against foreign interference in the country, calling Daw Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy party the stooges of imperialists. On Tuesday, the *New Light of Myanmar* carried a veiled warning that the party might be outlawed, and attacked the group's recent plan to draft a constitution.

The party angered the country's rulers in November when it pulled out of a government-controlled convention drafting the guidelines of a constitution.

Burma has been ruled by the military since a 1962 coup. The country's last constitution was revoked in 1988 when the military suppressed a democracy uprising.

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'I don't want to be deaf, mummy'

Lord Ashley has been criticised for supporting ear implants for deaf children. Win Blackmore tells why she is fully behind his campaign

My daughter Siân is deaf. She is seven. A feisty girl with wild black hair, scowling eyes and a pair of tiny translucent ears that really do look shell-like and are amazingly, preposterously, useless.

She was two when we discovered she was deaf, two when she wore her first hearing aid: your basic beige contraptions that look enormous hooked over those dainty, useless ears. We had to sit on her to get her to wear them: one of us wrestling with her as she thrashed about on the floor, the other attempting to thread the hearing aids into the moving target.

Now she puts them in herself. She calls them her "ears" and in a way they are. She knows better than anybody else that they are her link to the outside world. The hearing world in which she lives, and, like it or not, in which she must inevitably make her way. Unlike Lord Ashley of Stoke, Siân's hearing damage is neural. She would not benefit from a cochlear implant, though when I mentioned such a thing to her — an operation that could, perhaps, make deaf children hear again — her face brightened in wonder at the thought.

I explained to her, gently, that here is not the sort of deafness that could be helped by this sort of miracle cure. She explained to me, in the smug and superior way that only seven-year-old girls can adopt, that she knew this already. The doctor had pointed it out on the wall chart one day, she said: her problem lies somewhere behind "that thing that looks like a giant snail". Even so, I could see the flicker of hope in her eyes.

I told her that some people — some deaf people — are unsure about this operation. They worry

about what it will do to them, to their deaf children, to their deaf world. They think deaf people are part of a separate culture, and they want to be left alone with their silence, not bothered by meddling hearing busybodies — or meddling deafened busybodies like Lord Ashley — proffering help they neither want, nor need.

Unbidden, my daughter sat up in bed, pyjamas askew, eyes suddenly full of tears, answering the question I was too afraid to put to her. "I don't want to be deaf, mummy," she said. "I don't want to be deaf."

I don't want my daughter to be deaf either. Being able to hear is not some optional extra like a sunroof on a new car. I believe God meant us to have five senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. Four out of five can never be good enough.

My daughter is disabled. I do not like to say it. I do not like, particularly, to think about it. I do not

because I am a saint, but because it is easy to forget, with Siân, that it is so. But it is so. Her deafness is not some interesting character at work. It is not a membership card to some special silent sub-culture. It is a loss. An absence.

It is a risk to her safety every time she walks along a busy street. It's a barricade to a world of beautiful things, such as music, which the rest of us take for granted. It is not, I can assure you — speaking as one who hails from a family larded with Welsh people — the slightest bit like being Welsh.

The people who say this are trying, I think, to escape the restrictions the hearing world has imposed on them. See, they say, nothing wrong with us. We have our own language, our own culture, our own heritage. It's you



A deaf child learns sign language at school. Win Blackmore has promised her daughter Siân that they will learn together. Another adventure

who has the problem. But by seeking to escape the restrictions of the hearing world in this way — by opting out of the game and starting their own — they are creating a whole new set of restrictions for themselves, and their children. In their game, they are normal, but the world as a whole plays by a different set of rules, and that is a game I want my daughter to play.

With the advice from her teachers for the deaf, we made a decision to move Siân from a special hearing unit to her neighbourhood school three years ago. It was, we felt — the right thing to do. The right thing, not the easy thing. Equipped with her own version of the bionic ear — hearing aids and the cumbersome but necessary radio aid ("I hate this damn thing," she mutters each morning as I clip the device round

'Being able to hear is not some optional extra like a sunroof on a new car. God meant us to have five senses'

her waist) she plays the game. I remember talking to her teachers, hearing about her successes in the classroom and her bewildering, heartbreaking isolation on the playground. How she spent playtime after playtime sitting alone on the wall, watching the other children.

All that laughing, all that shout-

ing, all that noise so confusing for a small person whose hearing aids are distressingly non-discriminating. "I'm miserable on the playground," she confided once. "I know I'm not very nice sometimes, but nobody wants to play my games. And I can't play their games, because they're always whispering."

I remember watching her in her first school play: standing at the front of the hall singing *Oats and Beans and Barley Grow*, wearing an enormous grin, with her hearing aids flopping out at right angles from each side of her head, helped forward by the twisted leads of her radio aid.

It is not the perfect system. Sometimes the transmitter parts of the radio aids get lost in the shuffle of a busy school day, sometimes there are accidents: leads get tangled and broken, antennae

'Nobody wants to play my games. And I can't play their games, because they're always whispering'

drop off and are never seen again. But it is working. My daughter speaks well. Not perfectly, but so well you'd never guess that with her hearing aids removed I have to press my lips against her right ear — her "good ear" — and bellow to make myself understood. She does not sign, though she is keen to learn. So am I. I have promised

her that we will learn together. Another adventure.

One of those who criticised Lord Ashley this week was a deaf father of three deaf children. "If you were black, you wouldn't have an operation to make you white," he said, admonishing the man who opted to escape his silent world by surgery. The angry statement made me stop and think. Is it offensive to black people? Probably. And deaf people? Possibly. Definitely offensive to Lord Ashley. And yet, I have to say that given a choice — a fairy godmother-sort of wish with strings attached — I would rather my daughter was black and hearing, than white and deaf.

That way, when I whispered in her ear at night I love you, she would hear me.

© The author is Women's editor of the Evening Argus, Brighton.

□ Improving the diagnosis of ovarian cancer □ Air passengers' pointless act □ HRT gives radiologists problems

Modified blood test finds the tumour

WHEN Theresa retired from the Civil Service in her late fifties she hoped for a long and peaceful retirement and that her life, spent travelling the world, would be disturbed only by the ghost who shared her West Country cottage. She had already survived cancer of the breast, and had had no recurrence following a mastectomy several years earlier.

The dream of a quiet retirement was shattered, however, when she had a routine check at her breast clinic. Because of the association between breast and ovarian cancer, she underwent an ultrasound examination of her pelvis which showed she already had a large ovarian tumour. General Practitioner magazine reports that Dr Ian Jacobs of St Bartholomew's Hospital recently presented data to the American Society of Clinical Oncologists which has demonstrated a refinement in the testing for the tumour markers CA125 and OVX1 which are useful in revealing cancer of the ovary during medical screening.

More than 80 per cent of women who have malignant ovarian disease have a raised level of these antigens in the blood, but the standard test used at present shows that only one in 50 of those who have this raised level has the disease. The tumour marker test as modified by Dr Jacobs reduces this high false positive rate; with his test, 7 in 50 who are positive to it



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttard

have the malignancy. The diagnosis of cancer by detecting antigen blood markers in the blood is still in its infancy, but Dr Jacobs's work represents an advance.

Cancer of the ovary affects about ten women in every hundred thousand each year; it is the most common cause of death from a gynaecological tumour and about one woman in a hundred dies from it. Women at particular risk are those who have not had any children, have a family history of it, or have had breast or colorectal cancer.

A review by Dr Neelan Siddiqui, a medical oncologist in Newcastle, in GP magazine shows Theresa's case was typical for she had no children, she had developed the cancer at the most dangerous age — the average age of onset is 55 — and she had never taken the pill. The contraceptive pill cuts the incidence of cancer of the ovary by at least 30 per cent.

As in Theresa's case, the disease is often first diagnosed by chance when a tumour in the pelvis is noticed either during physical examination or by abdominal or intra-vaginal ultrasound. If diagnosis is delayed the patient has usually consulted her doctor because of abdominal distension and discomfort, bladder symptoms, weight loss, cough or breathlessness. Treatment has improved but early diagnosis still offers the best hope of recovery.



THE Princess of Wales has received a filmstar-type reception in Chicago

where she is attending various functions to aid research into breast cancer. Her interest in this research helps to keep the subject of breast cancer in the news. For although, unlike cancer of the ovary, its prognosis is relatively good, public awareness of the disease and the need for early detection still play an important part in reducing the death rate.

HRT and breast cancer

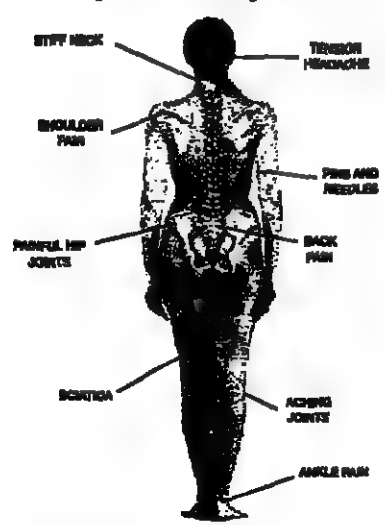
A recent report in the journal of the National Cancer Institute has drawn attention to the difficulties of diagnosing breast cancer by mammography when the woman is taking HRT and her breast tissue is very dense. In an American review of 9,000 post-menopausal women, those taking HRT were 71 per cent more likely to have a false positive report. More disturbing was the

fivefold increase in the number of false negative reports. These come from X-ray reports where the radiologist has missed an early cancer. In many cases the radiologist wasn't aware that the patient was taking HRT. In Britain too, it seems, radiologists aren't always informed that a woman is on HRT.

The best results in breast screening are obtained when the standard of films taken is high, the radiologists are expert in their interpretation, and when comparison with films taken at previous screening sessions is possible.

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THE rejection of Michael Leyland as a travelling companion by a plane full of returning holidaymakers because she has suffered from meningitis while in Majorca was not only brutal, but also displayed

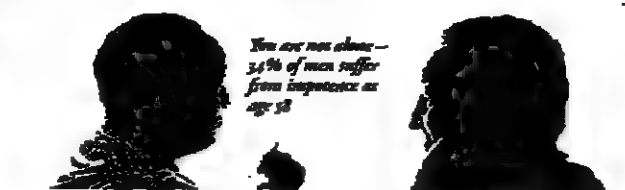
Brutal act of ignorance

a gross ignorance of the life history and spread of meningococcal bacteria.

Michaela was probably the one person on the flight who could be guaranteed to be free

of meningococci. One in ten people have the bacteria living in their throats and noses although they are perfectly well, but the very first penicillin jab given to Michaela, when she fell ill, would have cleared her body of the bacteria. Michaela's very distressing and potentially lethal symptoms of meningitis were as a result of toxins released by the bacteria which are not, of course, neutralised by the antibiotic.

Aircraft air conditioning filters out bacteria, but not viruses. Hence the colds from which airline passengers suffer after they have reached their destination. Coughing can spread bacteria to fellow passengers sitting nearby and there is increasing evidence that TB is transmitted in this way. If there are any empty seats it might be as well to move away from a thin, cachectic passenger who is coughing lustily, but there can be no medical excuse for banning poor Michaela.



What my older, wiser brother said about "IMPOTENCE"

PEOPLE who suffer from it get fed up. Just thinking about it makes it worse. And many prescribed drugs have adverse effects. But there are qualified people who now specialise in treating this embarrassing condition painlessly. I found them, he said, at The Medical Centre in Weymouth Street, London W1N 3BA. Call them on 0171 637 2018, now!

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FOR ALL GOOD SPORTS

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Inside the glass menagerie: public transport might be more eco-friendly, but the film star Sean Bean prefers to peer out at the world from his limousine

Driven to be in a world of their own

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Sir Owen Green spent 30 years sitting in the back of an air-conditioned limousine, watching a silent world through tinted windows. But when he retired three years ago as chairman of BTR, the olding company, he had to surrender his company driver and get behind the wheel himself.

After a few weeks of fuming at traffic jams on the M25, he began to question whether driving a car was worth the other. Now he is a wholehearted convert to public transport.

"You come in contact with ordinary people again," he says, "and if you are the sort of person who picks up the vibes, then you really get a grip on what's going on. It's been quite a revelation."

"We hardly have any local transport in Surrey, so I have to use my car, but I take the train whenever I can and in London I go by Tube. It's more convenient than the car and I enjoy it. I went to Victoria station and I was amazed. I can't have been there for 15 years and there were escalators, marbled floors and everything looked clean."

Julia Llewellyn Smith on why those who are chauffeured from place to place are in danger of losing touch with what is going on in real life

Sir Owen's greatest interest comes from observing his fellow passengers. "I have noticed the absence of the 'feel-good' factor. No one is jumping with joy and people are rather greyish in their dress, both females and males. There's not a lot of laughter — but perhaps there never was. I don't see a lot of colour, in fact London is a lot what I imagine China to be like. Perhaps it will be different now that summer is here."

"Then there are the twangers, playing their guitars on the Underground, which is a bit of light relief. I notice that people do throw the odd 10p to them, which is nice to see."

Perhaps everyone looks grey to Sir Owen because they are all demoralised by endless security alerts, rising fares and compartments like sardine cans. Maybe they are looking miserable because they are envying plutocrats who are chauffeured around

in company cars? "Maybe," he concedes.

"I'm fortunate because I'm retired and I don't have to travel in the rush-hour, so I don't see the system at its worst. But on the Underground, of course, every hour is rush-hour and I don't mind standing."

Isolation attracts us to cars and that seems unlikely to change — it is in this feeling that danger lies

Sir Owen is in a minority. According to Dr Peter Marsh, a social psychologist, most people love their vehicles precisely because they keep the common herd at bay. "Isolation is what attracts us to cars and that seems unlikely to change," he says. "Being behind a wheel makes you feel in control of your destiny; you make your own decisions, you play your own music and you feel omnipotent."

It is in this feeling of seclusion that danger lies. "Being detached from the outside world is the main cause of road rage," Dr Marsh says. "There is a territorial aspect to a car and any slight to that makes you very aggressive."

At Westminster, any politically-correct MP will waste

galions of hot air telling you to abandon your gas-guzzler. In reality, however, most agree with Steven Norris, the former Transport Minister, who famously described users of public transport as "dreadful human beings".

"The number of cyclists in the Commons just about goes into double figures," says a shamed Gary Waller, MP, the secretary of the all-party cycling group. "As soon as ministers get a chance to use a ministerial car, they forget all about bikes."

The poor dears cannot, apparently, cope with the sartorial stress of having to take their bicycle clips on and off.

A long list of B-list celebs, from Michaela Strachan to Anna Friel, who played Beth in *Brookside*, have put their names to the Friends of the Earth "Fuming Mad" campaign to discourage the use of cars — yet they can regularly be seen tripping out of stretched limos at premieres.

"Just because they are supporting us, it doesn't necessarily mean they don't drive," an FoE spokesman says.

The great and the good who can be regularly spotted using public transport include Bamber Gascoigne, who has been seen strapping into the Piccadilly Line, while — and no surprises here — Emma Thompson takes every opportunity she can to share the horrors of the Northern Line with the plebs, all the while trying unsuccessfully to hide behind a copy of *The Guardian*.

Jon Snow, the Channel 4 presenter, has a limousine and driver permanently at his

disposal, but says he has not used it for "yunks", preferring to speed about town on his bicycle.

"My cycling informs my job 100 per cent," he says. "You see things on a bicycle that you would never see in a car and you have contacts with the most unlikely people. You wouldn't believe how many insightful conversations I've had with dispatch riders."

Paula Whitney, a 56-year-old grandmother, was a slave to the car for more than 30 years. Then, two years ago, her little blue Metro broke down and she decided to give up driving for ever.

"I've never regretted it," she says. "I had been worrying about the environment for a long time, but I had never contemplated giving up my car. Then I started catching the bus and grew to love it."

Like Sir Owen, Ms Whitney finds life is far more convivial when you take public transport. "On the bus you have to interact with the other passengers. Everyone says 'excuse me' and 'thank you' when they get off, even the youngsters, when it is a service they have paid to use. It's a far more pleasant way of living than sitting in a metal box, where you think you are invulnerable."

Will more luminaries follow Ms Whitney's example? The eco warrior Anita Roddick drives her Volkswagen Golf to the Body Shop's headquarters in Littlehampton, Surrey. "We're a bit out in the sticks here, so you need a car," explains a spokesman.

And we are yet to see that friend of the plants the Prince of Wales — who once sent his limousine to pick up his organic vegetables — jostling with commuters on the station at Windsor.

How El Tel finally fell from grace

Giles Coren on the day that the halo slipped from the saviour of England's national game

The thin veneer of respectability on "the saviour of English football" has finally cracked. Terry Venables's appearances on television this week have borne all the trademarks of insecurity, delusion and neurosis that beset fallen idols.

For years he was untouchable, doing everything right. At least on the surface. He represented England at every level from schoolboy to manager, led small clubs to great things, managed Tottenham and Barcelona, even wrote novels and opened a nightclub. Scribes West, in Kensington.

And it was all a sop to the press. Scribes, indeed, became a hangout for the *Daily Mail* hacks who, like all but a few football writers, have given Venables such unquestioning support.

His business dealings have been the subject of sports page jokery, rather than true suspicion. Allegations of favouritism have always petered away, despite the unarguable fact that he has filled his team with the former Spurs players he once outlived.

For Venables is the most litigious man in sport. Even his partiality for players represented by the agent Eric Hall, a close friend, has gone barely remarked upon in the press.

While many expressed private reservations about the appointment of an England manager with so many court cases hanging over him, the sports pages have chosen, with unique restraint, to class him innocent until proven guilty.

For there is no room for ambiguity in football, or football journalism. Lineker, Keegan and Hoddle are good. Vinny Jones, Graham Taylor and the Germans are bad. Taylor was vilified per-

sonally because he advocated "route one" football. Venables plays a passing game which is "good", therefore he is "good".

It is no exaggeration, within the simplicity of the football equation, to say that if Norman Lamont had propounded a system of three central defenders playing behind a midfield built around Paul Gascoigne, he would still be Chancellor.

Then there were his demands for "proof" — the last resort of the declining hero: "Have you got any proof? Have you got any photographs? Let me see them."

Sound familiar? In iambic pentameters it might look something like this:

"Villain, be sure thou prove my love a whore. Be sure of it. Give me the ocular proof..."

Thus spoke Othello at the very moment his fall was assured. All the good work, the triumphant campaigns, and the hard-earned reputation were as nothing. Pity poor Desdemona Lynam.

Venables will not have to follow Othello all the way to his tragic end, however, for he surprisingly fell on his sword even before Euro 96 got under way — citing the imminent court appearances that by no means prevented him accepting the job in the first place. At any rate, he is beginning to act like a man with nothing to lose.

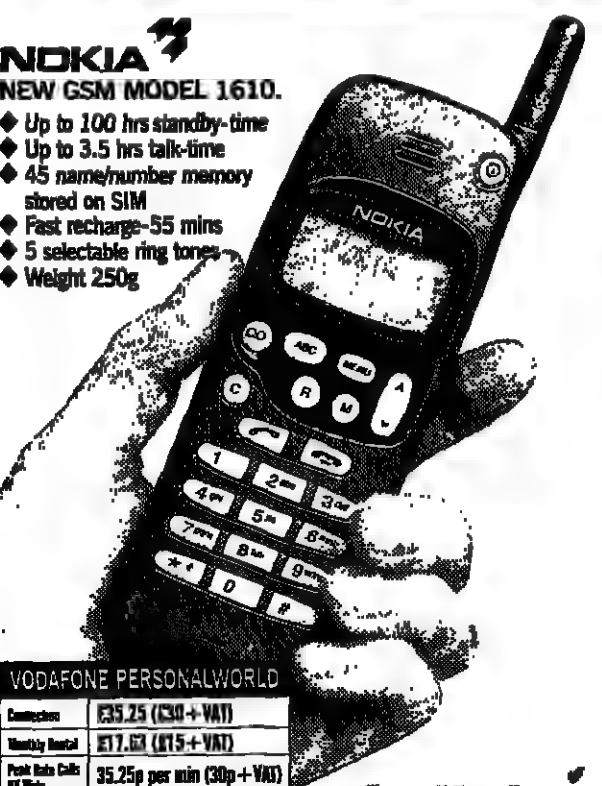
But in the coming weeks, as Euro 96 colonises our screens, Venables will be answering to more than just the football crazy. Never mind that he stood by his players when they misbehaved: people will point out that he has made the team in his own image. That the Robbie Fowlers, the Steve McManamans and the Gazzas are simply jobs that fit with Venables's post-Loaded notion of a Lads XI. Fowler and McManaman, indeed, have learnt further lessons from their boss, and initiated legal proceedings over the *Cathay* affair.

Which of them would you bet on for England manager in 2020?



Terry Venables: litigious

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DAIHATSU

For Pacific tiger cubs, maths is fun

The Scots dominie is flourishing in China, says Magnus Linklater

Four times two is eight, four times three is twelve, four times four is sixteen. Sitting in rows behind our little wooden desks, we chanted our times tables in shrill voices, while Miss Pirie conducted us like a ragged chamber orchestra. An uncertain diminuendo as we hit the difficult bits would be followed by a crescendo leading up to the triumphant finale: twelve times twelve is 144. This was primary school education as I remember it. Chris Woodhead would have been delighted.

Mr Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, is in despair about our maths teaching today. In the course of a gloomy interview on *Panorama* this week, he said that there are "significant problems" about the way it is taught in England (Scotland was, perhaps mercifully, excluded). A survey has shown that pupils at English primary schools are up to two years behind their contemporaries in parts of Europe and the Far East. They are particularly poor in basic arithmetic. Two decades of progressive teaching seems to have failed in one of its basic aims: pupils organised in small groups rather than whole classes receive less direct teaching than they had before.

I wish I could direct Mr Woodhead to Miss Pirie's class at Nigg Primary School in the north of Scotland, because we learnt, I think, a great deal in those early years, and it stuck with us for life. But it has closed, and Miss Pirie, alas, is no longer with us. As for chanting in class, that was consigned to the educational waste-bin many years ago. But whole-class teaching is back in vogue. Mr Woodhead favours it. Gillian Shepherd, the Education Secretary, likes it and so does David Blunkett, her Labour shadow. Its most enthusiastic adherents, however, are *Panorama* viewers, are on Asia's Pacific Rim, and it is perhaps there that we should seek some lessons for today.

To find out how it works, Malcolm Thorne, the headmaster of Fettes College in Edinburgh, and a colleague from Lomond School near Glasgow, went out last month to Guangdong in southern China. Fettes, which once had a tradition of exporting missionaries to China, has for some time been taking pupils from South-East Asia, and Mr Thorne was struck by how often they outperform their British counterparts, particularly in maths and science. They arrive at Fettes more skilled and confident, and carry this advantage through to the end of their time at school, winning more A levels and university places.

At the Ying Hao school in Guangdong, Mr Thorne sat in on classes where serious rows of primary school children learnt tables by rote, committed sums to memory, and worked with an abacus rather than a calculator. Classes are large by British standards, many of them 40 or more, but they were easily controlled by just one teacher. No more time was spent on maths than any other subject, and there was

relatively little homework; there was no great sense of pressure, and Mr Thorne was struck by the enthusiasm of the children he met. They insisted on showing off their knowledge, reciting for his benefit the names of every capital city in Europe. They demonstrated gleefully how they could do basic sums faster with an abacus than a calculator. Above all, they seemed to be enjoying school. So impressed was Mr Thorne that he wants to set up a swap arrangement with Fettes.

But before Mr Woodhead buys a return ticket to China, some caveats must be registered. Ying Hao is hardly a run-of-the-mill state school. Founded three years ago by a Chinese businessman, Chen Zhong Lian, it is a private school, where parents pay £20,000 down to enrol their children. This is invested and pays for the entire course. A secondary school has been added, and there are already 2,000 pupils — a startling testimony, if nothing else, to the burgeoning wealth of southern China. There is a natural thirst for knowledge, and a respect for teachers which is hardly prevalent in Britain today. In some ways, their status is reminiscent of that once enjoyed by the Scottish "dominie".

There is a long tradition of numeracy in South-East Asia, evidenced by a love of gambling and by the entrepreneurial spirit that drives the "tiger" economies. A familiarity with figures which begins at home is likely to be carried forward into school. Mr Thorne himself speculates whether it may have something to do with the hundreds of intricate characters in the Chinese alphabet which every child learns. There is the natural discipline of the classroom, though it is hard to say whether that stems from the rigours of the Communist system, or from the ruthless control on the birth rate, resulting in single-child families. It is unlikely to transplant easily to a sprawling mixed-ability comprehensive in inner-city Manchester, say, or Glasgow.

And yet there are useful lessons. One is that learning by rote, the absorbing of knowledge en masse, far from being a deadening experience, can be enjoyable, even stimulating. Another is that in the very young, of whatever nationality, there is a natural enthusiasm for learning (I was struck by evidence at the Dunblane inquiry which recalled how excited the children were at the simple prospect of beginning their daily gym class). And there is the confidence that a grounding in simple numeracy gives any child: acting as a foundation for creativity, rather than muzzling it.

As a teacher himself, Mr Thorne came away from Guangdong with one final thought. He was struck by how relaxed the teachers were, even after an hour with a class of 40. It was, he thought, far less exhausting than trying to teach three or four individual groups in a class of 25. Size, it seems, is not everything.

They recite tables, memorise sums, use the abacus



"It's beef in our time..."

Hillary loses the Post

Deserted by the media, the First Lady now looks likely to be indicted

Ten days ago, before the convictions of Governor Jim Guy Tucker and the two McDougals for fraud, the Whitewater affair was almost as much a press story as a political one. For four years there had been serious allegations against President Clinton, and solid evidence for those allegations, but most of the investigative reporting had been done outside the columns of the establishment press or the three network television news programmes. To know about the evidence, an ordinary American would have had to rely on the leader rather than the news columns of *The Wall Street Journal*, on small-circulation magazines such as the *American Spectator*, on newsletters and the Internet, on the reporting of Christopher Ruddy in the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, on Ambrose Evans-Pritchard's journalism in the *London Sunday Telegraph*, or on the interest that has been taken by *The Times* of London, not of New York.

It was as though the American establishment press, which exposed President Nixon over Watergate, had decided to protect President Clinton over Whitewater, and over the mystery of Vincent Foster's death and the other scandals. The big press question has been whether the silence of the establishment media would continue after the convictions. Last Sunday, *The Washington Post* broke it. The paper published a series of linked articles, extending over four pages, reviewing Hillary Clinton's connection with the scandals. There is no doubt that these articles were thoroughly researched, using the *Post's* substantial resources, and they are damaging to Hillary Clinton. They were published the weekend after the convictions, but they must have been put in hand well before. If the convictions had not occurred, one may reasonably assume that *The Washington Post* would have decided not to publish, and the silence might have become permanent.

How damaging these articles are can best be judged from the Whitehouse reaction. Two lawyers on the Whitehouse staff who have been assigned to handle Whitewater-related matters, Jane Sherburne, special counsel to the President, and Mark Fabiani, associate special counsel to the President, were informed about the scope of the article and asked to offer responses to each of its eight main sections. Fabiani and Sherburne dismissed the main points of the article as trivial and disputable and accused *The Post* of following a partisan Republican agenda. Given

The Washington Post's past reluctance to give credence to the evidence of the Clinton scandals, that is a breathtaking piece of impertinence. The White House apparently believes that it is impartial for a newspaper to stay silent, but partisan to want to look at the evidence.

The Washington Post put headlines on each of the sections, and these give something of the flavour of the article. "The Lawyer — The Billing Records — Sixty Hours — Brewers and Sewers — Dealing with Seth Ward — Getting Out — Pull Disclosure". Each leaves questions for Hillary to answer. "Why and how did Hillary Clinton take on McDougal and Madison as her clients? Did Hillary see the billing records back in 1992 when questions were first raised about her legal work? If she did, why did she not release them to the public then — before they went missing — or at least summarise them in discussions with the press? Has she truly been committed to full disclosure? What role did she play, if any, in the billings' disappearance and rediscovery? By whatever name, Castle Grande or IDC, what did Hillary Clinton actually do in the 30 hours of work the billing records show she did for Madison in connection with the property? What was Hillary Clinton's relationship with Ward?"

Janice Green was one of the Arkansas jurors in the trial which convicted Jim Guy Tucker and the McDougals. The trial was primarily concerned with the Castle Grande property transactions, which the jury found to be fraudulent. Whitewater itself, which was a separate partnership between the Clintons and McDougals, relates to Castle Grande as a kind of baby syndicate. After the trial, Janice Green said to the Associated Press: "I think he [Clinton] and his wife had just as much to do with it." That is the implication of *The Washington Post's* questions, as well as of the evidence at the trial itself.

Take for instance the events of February 28, 1986, the key date in the Castle Grande fraud. Seth Ward — who has not been charged — has been termed the "straw" buyer of properties for Madison, which under

the regulations Madison could not lawfully buy for itself. He is also the father-in-law of Webster Hubbell, the convict who was then a partner of Hillary Clinton's in the Rose Law Firm. The billing records also showed that she spent nearly an hour with Ward on February 28, 1986. In a complicated manoeuvre that day, Jim Guy Tucker, the future governor who was then practising law, bought the sewer system from Ward for \$1.2 million, fully financed by a Madison loan and \$150,000 from David Hale of Capital Management Services, Inc. At the same time, Hale netted \$500,000 from a Madison loan, which he used to leverage \$1.5 million from the Small Business Administration. Of that he loaned \$300,000 to Susan McDougal. Everyone involved benefited from these loan swaps.

The Washington Post continues: "That intricate transaction was an important part of the trial that ended last week in the convictions of Tucker and the McDougals. Hale testified that his loan to Susan McDougal came only after Bill Clinton asked him to make it during a meeting at McDougal's Castle Grande sales trailer. Clinton has denied that allegation and repeated his denial under oath. ... Some of the money from the loan swaps — \$500,000 — ended up in the Whitewater development account jointly held by the Clintons and McDougals. ... When Hillary Clinton was asked what she was doing with Ward during the February 28, 1986 meeting, she told RTC lawyers: 'I do not recall what I did on that day.'"

Despite *The Washington Times*, *The Washington Post* is virtually the monopoly newspaper of Washington. Along with *The New York Times*, it tends to set the political agenda, even for the network news programmes. Its Washington sources are better than anyone else's. It is the only newspaper ever to have forced an American President to resign. During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln compared the power of the *London Times* to that of the Mississippi River. *The Washington Post* has a

William Rees-Mogg

A tale of two viruses

Alf Morris on the forgotten haemophiliacs

There is today a deep sense of injustice among people with haemophilia and their families. The tragic fate of three brothers explains why.

All three had haemophilia. Two — call them Bill and Tom — were infected with HIV by NHS treatment and died of Aids-related illnesses. Their brother — call him Fred — was infected with the hepatitis "C" virus (HCV), also by NHS treatment, and died of liver failure. Bill and Tom received financial help from the Macfarlane Trust, funded by the Government, and were able to make some provision for their families. Fred went to his grave having been refused that help. He was unable to make any provision for the future wellbeing of his family.

All three brothers had become terminally ill and died from the same cause: contaminated NHS blood products. But Fred was denied the help given to Bill and Tom by a Government that provided £70 million for people infected with HIV, and set up the Macfarlane Trust to give them continuing support. The Government accepted its moral responsibility in the case of HIV infection. It has the same responsibility in the HCV cases.

It is argued that compensating those infected with HCV would take money away from patient care in the NHS. To say that is to bark not just up the wrong tree but in the wrong forest. For the payments made in the HIV cases, including those to the dependants of people who subsequently died because of Aids, came from contingency monies, which is what the Haemophilia Society is asking for now for the HCV victims. The society simply wants the terms of reference of the Macfarlane Trust to be extended to include them.

Measured against the pain and suffering endured, the claim is an extremely modest one. Hepatitis "C" attacks the liver and is life-threatening. Current medical opinion is that up to 80 per cent of those infected develop chronic liver disease. Of these, some 20 per cent develop severe liver problems such as cirrhosis or liver cancer. More than 50 of those infected by contaminated NHS blood products have already died and the death rate is accelerating.

This further tragedy in the haemophilia community dates back to before 1986, when heat treatment was introduced to end the contamination of NHS blood products. But by then 3,100 people with haemophilia alone had been infected with hepatitis "C". In recognition of the scale of the problem, an all-party early day motion was tabled in the Commons in my name, urging parity of treatment for people infected with HIV or HCV. The motion now has more than 260 signatures, a majority of all MPs who are free to sign such motions. As the list shows, the issue is treated as one of Right and Left, but of right and wrong.

To sustain the call for parity, the Haemophilia Society recently reported the findings of in-depth research into the problems and needs of people infected with HCV but not yet seriously ill. The report describes the impact of HCV on them and their families. It is a disturbing document. Families are described trying to cope with sickness, loss of income, loss of jobs and loss of independence, while having to live with what they know may soon prove a terminal illness.

The most urgent need is for financial help to loosen the vice of reduced income and increased costs. More research is needed into treatment therapy and particularly into combination therapy. Other pressing needs are for a public education programme to explain the facts and dispel the myths about hepatitis "C", and for the funding of recombinant clotting factors to replace the plasma-derived products that caused both the HIV and HCV infections. Recombinant products are free from the risk of blood-borne viruses, ensuring that further disasters do not befall the haemophilia community.

In none of the campaigns I have been closely involved in at Westminster over the years (among them Thalidomide, campaigns for the deaf-blind and for children with dyslexia and autism; for war widows, the elderly people duped by Barlow Clowes, and haemophiliacs infected with HIV) have I had so strong a sense that no campaign should be necessary to right such an obvious wrong. The Government knows we are right, and that our campaign is entirely free from party animus. It knows, too, that if given the nod by ministers, the Commons could settle the issue within an hour.

This week we embark on the final lap of this Parliament's last full session. The Government's legislative programme is gossamer thin. Parliamentary time could unquestionably be found. If ministers fail to act, and the campaign has to go on, then go on it will.

The author is Labour MP for Manchester (Wythenshawe) and was the first Minister for Disabled People.

Turn over

TURTLE trouble is blighting London Zoo, where three of the creatures are being expelled for excessive sexual activity. The Hawksbill turtles, which arrived at the zoo in the 1980s as babies, are being sent to Seaworld in Florida because exhausted zookeepers cannot cope with their antics.

Now that the turtles, two males and a female, have grown to a metre long, their 5,000 gallon tank cannot contain them. "They swim a lot and the males are just starting to get sexually active," explains a weary Dr Heather Hall, curator of the aquarium and reptile house. "They are giving the female a hard time, chasing her round their cramped tank. She hasn't enough space to get away from them."

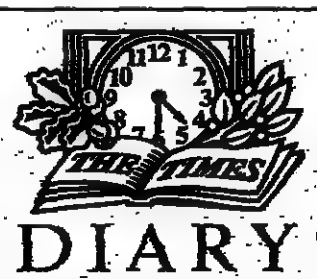
In their Florida paradise they will have a 70,000 gallon tank out in the sun. There will be plenty of deep pools and hideholes, where the female can escape her fans. They are flying out tomorrow morning via Paris in specially designed boxes. "They have to be kept very moist throughout," says Dr Hall. "I got some very funny looks in Sainsbury's when I came out

with eight tubs of Vaseline. But I would love to see their faces when they arrive in the sunshine."

Jack Straws plans to impose a curfew on children under 10 may have had its origin in his own schooldays. The boy who would be Home Secretary was clearly something of a goody-goody, and in the magazine for old boys of Brent



"The last one was just too ambitious"



wood School he tells how he once had to recover the school racial from a police station in Stratford-upon-Avon. "When we got there, this guy was not actually locked in the cells," recalls Straws disapprovingly. "He was just stuck there and we had to ... bring him home."

Morris dance

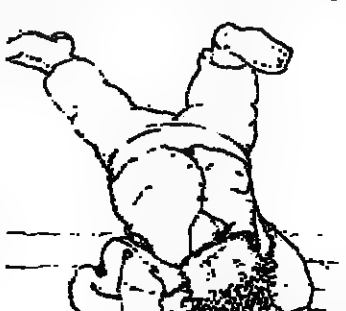
HUMOUR is not a quality one readily associates with Edward Burne-Jones, the pre-Raphaelite artist. But a forthcoming sale at Christie's reveals him as a demon caricaturist, fond of sending up friends such as William Morris, socialist and wallpaper designer.

Burne-Jones always seemed a rather stiff character, forever on best behaviour when with his for-

bidding wife Georgiana. The caricatures were his way of unwinding. Particularly fond of obese characters, he depicts Morris as a tubby sort turning cartwheels by moonlight. Other drawings show him crawling under a bed and sitting in his bath.

Cannes do

FOLLOWING her trip to the Cannes Film Festival, Virginia Bottomley has grown very excited about the director Mike Leigh. The great British success of the festival, Leigh won the Palme d'Or with his film *Secrets and Lies*. Since returning



Morris by Jones

from the South of France, Mrs Bottomley is said to have been sending Leigh notes suggesting drink and lunch dates.

Her pretext is to discuss the future of the British film industry. Leigh is may not be so keen. His bearded, bearish, working-class heroism would look a little strange alongside Toryism.

Whatever other problems they may face in the Euro '96, the Dutch soccer squad will not be short of kit. They arrive today with 500 pairs of shorts, 550 shirts, 550 pairs of socks, 140 athletic supports, 100 pairs of bootlaces and 100 trackuits. The three goalkeepers alone are bringing 140 jerseys and 80 pairs of shorts.

Scott reports

KING Juan Carlos of Spain has expressed regret for granting an interview to the BBC and Selina Scott three years ago. At the time of the interview, Spain's media went apoplectic, as they had never been offered similarly informal televised access to the King's life. Miss Scott was condemned for her familiarity, the King for his frivolity.

In an interview published this



Selina Scott admired by Juan who knows

week in the Spanish magazine *Epoca*, the King says: "I made a mistake in giving Selina Scott an interview. It was not well understood in Spain." Except, of course, for one moment, when the monarch seemed to be studying Miss Scott's swimsuit a little too sedulously. Here the majority of Spanish men were quite understanding.

P.H.S

هكذا من الأصل

OBITUARIES

LORD CAMERON

Lord Cameron, KT, DSC, QC, Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland and Lord of Session, 1955-85, died on May 31 aged 96. He was born on February 8, 1900.

A LOVER of art and music, John Cameron was one of Scotland's most respected judges. He had a particular talent for criminal law and was a cross-examiner of great subtlety. Because of his unusually catholic interests, he made a significant contribution to public life both in Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom. His report on civil rights abuses in Northern Ireland still has currency in government and academic circles.

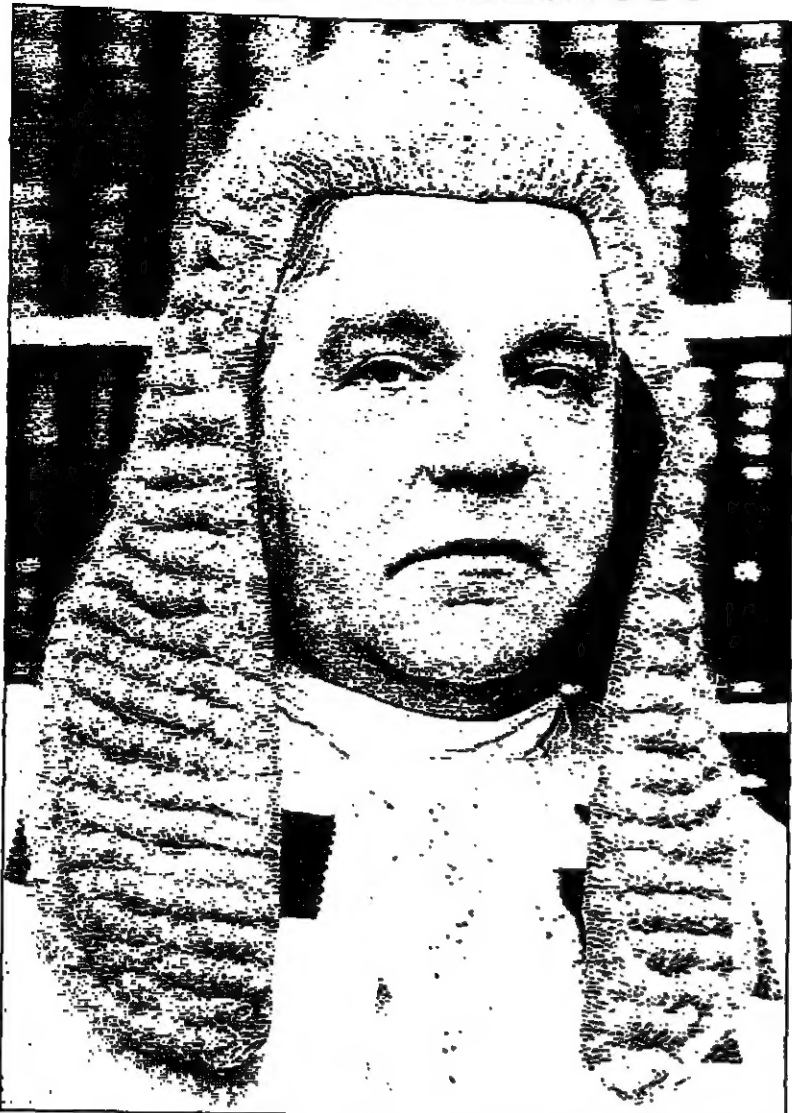
John Cameron was born into a well-known Edinburgh legal family. When he was five, he served at sea as a pre-arranged temporary midshipman in the RNR, taking part in the campaign in the Baltic which rumbled on after the First World War had ended. For the rest of his life sailing was one of his chief pleasures.

At Edinburgh University he took double honours in classics and history, and then an LLB with distinction. He was admitted to the Faculty of Advocates in 1924. His penchant for criminal law soon became apparent and he served as Advocate-Depute (a Crown prosecutor) from 1929 to 1936, when he took silk.

As the Second World War approached, his distaste of Hitler and Fascism became increasingly deeply felt and he served once more in the RNR. At Dunkirk, where he was mentioned in dispatches, he was in charge of one of the last craft to escape before the Germans arrived — a motorboat which he took out of the narrow channel full speed astern. In 1944, by now a lieutenant-commander, he was awarded the DSC for his "gallantry, skill and determination and undaunted devotion to duty" during the Allied landings in Normandy.

When he returned to the Scottish Bar in 1945, he was appointed Sheriff of Inverness, Elgin and Nairn, and in 1946 of the successor sheriffdom of Inverness, Moray, Nairn and Ross and Cromarty. He served on the shrieval bench until 1948.

As a QC he showed great skill with civil and criminal juries, and cross-examined witnesses with deceptive art. Defending in a murder trial, he asked the key prosecution witness, in a kindly



tone, what happened to people convicted of murder (capital punishment was still in use). The witness replied, with the smile of a simpleton, that he thought they would "get the tawse" (the strap). The court fell silent and his client, like many others, was acquitted.

Lord Cameron was elevated to the bench in 1955, and presided over some of the most famous criminal trials of the age. In the trial of the mass murderer Peter Manuel, he had to offer the accused assistance from the Bench when Manuel dismissed his counsel and conducted his own defence. Upon his conviction Lord Cameron sentenced him to death.

In civil cases his work was also

highly regarded. He sat in the First Division, initially with Lord President Clyde and then with Clyde's successor, Lord Emslie. But it was his wide involvement in public life which lent to his career an unusual depth and range. The reports on the inquiries he chaired into a range of issues were notable for their power, clarity and fairness.

In 1955 his court of inquiry into a threatened rail strike ruled that railwaymen should get a fair wage. He led inquiries into the London docks and into the Barbican project and, in 1969, chaired a three-man commission on the disturbances in Northern Ireland. The report upheld the long-standing Roman Catholic grievances.

In 1972 he was appointed a member of the Committee on Contempt of Court and latterly chaired it after the illness of Lord Phillimore. Its recommendations to unify the laws of England and Scotland formed the basis of the Contempt of Court Act of 1981. He also served, 1973-78, on the Royal Commission on Civil Liberty and Compensation for Personal Injury.

Lord Cameron, a keen artist and singer of songs, applied his energies over a wide field in the arts. He was active in the affairs of the Edinburgh Gateway Company and the Edinburgh International Festival Society. He was chairman of directors of the Edinburgh Concert Society, and a keen supporter of the Scottish National Orchestra. As chairman of the council of the Cockburn Association he led the campaign to preserve and enhance Edinburgh's architectural heritage, helping it to evade most of the worst excesses of postwar brutalism.

His ancestors were from the North of Scotland, and he worked hard for Highland development. He was chairman of the Advisory Panel on the Highlands and Islands, and later of the Highlands and Islands Development Consultative Council.

In 1962 the Duke of Edinburgh, as Chancellor of Edinburgh University, appointed Lord Cameron as his assessor. The new age of student power was at hand, and Lord Cameron was among those on the university court not entranced by the aspirations of the new breed of student rectors. Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, was the second student rector in 1972.

He was knighted in 1954 and appointed a Knight of the Thistle in 1978. Always a popular member of the Scottish Arts Club, his own gifts as an amateur painter amply qualified him for membership. But he also valued three strands in the Scottish tradition — its intellectual rigour, its preference for plain fare, and its conviviality. He and others would dine regularly on claret and kippers, or sheep's head, singed and boiled in a broth, both seasoned with pepper, just as their discourse was seasoned with wit.

John Cameron married Eileen Dorothy Burrell in 1927. She died in 1943. In 1944 he married Iris, widow of Lambert C. Shepherd. He is survived by his son — Lord Cameron of Lochroom, also a Scottish judge, and a former Lord Advocate — and two daughters from his first marriage.

PETER GLENVILLE

Peter Glenville, stage and screen director and actor, died in New York on June 3 aged 82. He was born in London on October 28, 1913.



IT CAME as no surprise to his undergraduate contemporaries when Peter Glenville abandoned his studies in law at Christ Church, Oxford, to pursue a career in the theatre. Indeed, given his family background, the wonder was that he ever seriously considered becoming a lawyer. His paternal grandfather, Mary Glenville, had been a frequent player at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin. His father, Shaun Glenville, was an Irish comedian and his mother, Dorothy Ward, carved out a niche as perhaps the greatest principal boy in pantomime.

Peter Glenville was educated at the Jesuits' Stonyhurst College. The die was cast when, as a student actor, he received rave reviews for his starring performance in a college production of *Hamlet* in the early 1930s. He was elected president of OUDS and from that point on the theatre claimed him.

Although he began as an actor, appearing in the West End and in several British films during the 1940s, his true talent lay in direction. He was engaged as a director by the Old Vic in 1944 and worked with some leading playwrights of the time: Terence Rattigan, Jean Paul Sartre, Tennessee Williams, Jean Anouilh, Aldous Huxley and Graham Greene.

With credits ranging from classical Shakespeare to Feydeau farce, it was not long before Glenville was lured across the Atlantic. Repeating his West End success with the play, he took Rattigan's *The Browning Version* to Broadway in 1949. He went on to direct Rattigan's *Separate Tables* with Margaret Leighton and Eric Portman; and there followed *The Prisoner*, with Alec Guinness, *Romeo and Juliet* with Olivia de

Havilland, and Feydeau's *Hotel Paradiso* with Bert Lahr and Angela Lansbury.

He proved adaptable to all forms of drama. He was equally at home directing Anouilh's *Becket*, Sartre's *Crime Passionelle* or Tennessee Williams's *Summer and Smoke* as he was with William Saroyan's *The Time of Your Life*.

He had a clear philosophy of the director's art. It had been said of him that he had a recognisable style of direction which was stamped on each production. Glenville did not take that as a compliment: "I believe that the director should, like a conductor, be an interpreter of a particular world of each playwright with whom he works. On occasion, the style of the play should call for the most delicate and unobtrusive staging. Sometimes other plays allow for broad and colourful strokes of direction, involving all the tricks that theatre magic can provide."

During the 1950s Glenville answered the inevitable call to

Hollywood, where he directed — and occasionally helped to script and produce — film versions of his own stage productions. His reputation helped to attract stars of the calibre of Laurence Olivier, Danny Kaye, Simone Signoret and Jack Hawkins. But few of his films received much critical acclaim. *Summer and Smoke* (1961) was dismissed as "wearisome," and *Time of Trial* (1962), with Olivier and Sarah Miles, was described as "rather dabby."

Glenville's last film, the star-studded 1967 production of Graham Greene's *The Comedians*, fared little better. He returned afterwards to work in the theatre and television.

He appreciated the difference between the two mediums, saying: "Cinema is a literature of images. Theatre is a literature of ideas." And he was clearly happier with the latter. At the end of his life, Peter Glenville went to live in San Miguel, Mexico. He was visiting a friend in Manhattan when he died. He was unmarried and leaves no survivors.

MAJOR ANTHONY BOURNE-ARTON

Major Anthony Bourne-Arton, MBE, Conservative MP for Darlington, 1959-64, died on May 28 aged 83. He was born on March 1, 1913.

ALTHOUGH only briefly an MP, Anthony Bourne-Arton represented a type of Conservative who is now almost extinct. He was landed, double-barrelled by marriage, instinctively loyal to country and party and known affectionately, to both opponents and friends, as "the Major".

Bourne-Arton was the second son of W. R. Temple Bourne of Walker Hall in Co Durham and his wife, Evelyn Rose, daughter of Sir Frank Wills, the Bristol tobacco magnate. He became Anthony Bourne-Arton after his marriage to Margaret Elaine, the daughter of W. Denby Arton, the owner of Slenzford Park, Ripon, and of hundreds of acres which had been sold off in the 19th century by the

Marquess of Aylesbury to pay his gambling debts.

Educated at Clifton, Bourne-Arton joined the Royal Artillery almost straight from school and first saw active service in Palestine well before the Second World War. He went to France with his guns in 1939, fought in the 1940 campaign, and saw further service in many theatres, including North Africa, Sicily and Italy. He was awarded an MBE (military) and several mentions in dispatches before being ordered to postwar operations in Malaya, from where he finally retired from the Army, taking with him the rank of major by which he was to be known for the rest of his life.

After leaving the Army he plunged straight into local government. After election to Bedale Rural District Council, he became a member of the North Riding County Council and served as a Justice of the Peace in the North Riding. But he had larger ambitions and



in 1959 he inherited the then safe Tory seat of Darlington, which he won by 4,417.

He made little impression in the Commons, but in 1962 he was appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to Henry Brooke, Macmillan's Home Secretary, who is still remembered for a series of disasters which marked his term at the Home Office. Bourne-Arton,

typically, did his best for his master and in later days he would point out loyally that many of Brooke's problems were due to sheer bad luck as much as anything.

Darlington, a railway town, was always going to be difficult to hold in 1964, the year of Harold Wilson's first victory, but Bourne-Arton's support for the Beeching report and the closure of Darlington's railway workshops, did not help him. Labour's Edward Fletcher duly defeated him by nearly 2,000 and although Bourne-Arton, with an old soldier's refusal to surrender, fought the seat again in 1966 and 1970, he never had a realistic chance of winning it back.

In retirement Bourne-Arton continued to play an active part in local affairs while devoting himself to fishing, shooting and his family. He had two sons and two daughters, all of whom survive him together with his wife Elaine, whom he married in 1938.

CARDINAL LÉON-ETIENNE DUVAL

Cardinal Léon-Etienne Duval, former Archbishop of Algiers, died there on May 30 aged 92. He was born in Chénex, Haute-Savoie, France, on November 9, 1903.

ON THE same day that the bodies of seven French Trappist monks were found near Algiers with their throats cut, the banished Christian community of Algeria lost its former spiritual leader, Cardinal Léon-Etienne Duval. Duval had served as Archbishop of Algiers from 1954 until his retirement in 1968. He was increasingly distressed about the fate of the seven monks, who were being held by gunmen of the Armed Islamic Group. He died only hours before the seven were confirmed dead.

Duval died in his home beside the Basilica of Our Lady of Africa in Algiers. The building, which looms over the maze-like district of Bab El-Oued, stands as a moving testimony to the survival of Christianity in the predominantly Islamic country.

Algeria had been granted its independence, after 130 years of French colonial rule, in 1962. Against the odds the Church survived, and with it the religious autonomy of 150,000 Christians living there. Duval was largely responsible for the peaceful co-existence of the two religions. Born in Chénex, Haute-Savoie, Léon-Etienne Duval entered the seminary of La Roche-sur-Foron at the age of 12 and studied there until 1921. Afterwards he attended the seminary of Annecy and the French seminary in Rome. In 1926 he was ordained priest, and he graduated two years later as a doctor of theology.

He then returned to his native Haute-Savoie, where he taught seminarians until 1938 and became Vicar-General of Annecy during the Second World War. He was highly critical of the Vichy regime. With peace, the course of his life changed. In 1946 he was appointed Bishop of Constantine, the largest city in north-eastern Algeria, and consecrated the following year. He intended to stay there for the rest of his life.

In fact he stayed in the elegant city, surrounded by hills, until 1954, when political events overtook him. On February 3 he was transferred to the bishopric of Algiers. Within months, following the Algerian National Liberation Front's declaration of the "November 1 Revolution", Duval embarked on a course of action which would set him apart from his countrymen and from many of his congregation.

As the bitter and bloody conflict of the war intensified, Duval became one of only a handful of sane, impartial voices among the Europeans calling for the building of "a new Algeria" which would respect the aspirations of both the minority Christian and majority Muslim communities. Throughout hostilities he used his tact to dilute the growing spirit of pessimism. Duval was horrified by the suffering he witnessed among the Algerians. He reminded the French Government that it was making its task of keeping its colony more difficult by worsening that suffering. Dreadful stories of French troops torturing Algerians in concentration camps were beginning to emerge. Europeans were also being butchered. In the midst of this carnage, Duval stood firm in his belief



that only reciprocal understanding could end the conflict.

In the end France withdrew, and in 1962 Algeria became independent. In 1965 Duval became an Algerian citizen, though he retained his French nationality. He was derided by many Frenchmen as a traitor, and given the nickname "Mohamed Duval". However, his patient and reasonable stand throughout the difficult years of the war had earned him the respect of the Catholic church. Eleven days after Duval became an Algerian citizen, Pope Paul VI elevated him to the position of Cardinal.

As Algeria set itself upon a new, socialist path, the church was again threatened. In 1976 the three basilicas of Annaba, Algiers and Oran were occupied by gendarmes in a show of force. Duval had no choice

but to go straight to the top. He requested President Houari Boumedienne to order their immediate withdrawal. The request worked.

Within the Catholic church, Duval provided the reformists of the 1960s with a powerful insight into many of the issues which Rome knew it must confront, in particular its relations with other world religions. To this end, in 1971 Duval was appointed head of a synod of bishops charged with conducting inter-religious dialogue.

Recently, he had become depressed about the resurgence of violence in Algeria. He told *Le Monde*: "Between 1961 and 1962, behind the violence, there was a strong sense of hope, a hope for independence. Today, behind the violence, there is no longer any hope at all: there is nothing more than a vast void."

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NEWS

Britain defies Brussels over beef

■ Britain's battle with the European Union over beef turned into an angry stand-off last night after Brussels refused to make any further moves towards lifting the general export ban until John Major ends his policy of non-cooperation.

The European Commission agreed, as expected, to end the embargo on beef by-products, but Jacques Santer launched a fierce attack on Britain's "absurd" stance, which he claimed was breaking the EU's founding treaty. **Pages 1, 21**

Blair admits smacking his children

■ Tony Blair said that he smacked his children and believed corporal punishment was an appropriate way to maintain discipline. His admission to *Parent Magazine* delighted Right-wing Tories but his own politically correct backbenchers see it as a mild blot on his moral reputation. **Page 1**

Ulster gap widens

John Major and John Bruton held urgent discussions to try to close a widening gap between the British and Irish Governments over next week's Northern Ireland talks. **Pages 2, 21**

Holiday girl drowned

Rebecca Ramsey, aged five, was feared drowned after being swept away by a high tide while on holiday near Bude in Cornwall. She had been walking on the beach with her family. **Page 3**

Diana mania

Chicago television stations renamed their weather forecasts "Diana-casts" and adult spectators sobbed with emotion as the Princess of Wales continued her visit to America. **Page 5**

Stone Age wine

The discovery in Iran of an ancient retsina has pushed back the origin of wine by 2,000 years. Traces were found in a jar dated about 5,000 BC. **Pages 6, 21**

Football fear

The FA's decision to drop strict controls on Euro 96 tickets and sell them on match days could lead to disorder, the national policing co-ordinator said. **Page 8**

Premature exam

Hundreds of A-level chemistry papers have been withdrawn from schools nationwide after a teacher allowed pupils to sit the examination early. **Page 11**

Fearful groom's honeymoon is over

■ A bridegroom showered with presents after announcing that he might die of cancer days after his wedding never had the disease. Doctors said Paul Challis had been suffering from an ear infection — not cancer of the cranium as he had claimed. Sympathetic businesses gave the bride a gown, cake, rings, a hired white Rolls-Royce and a champagne reception. **Page 3**

Bridge to Wales

The Prince of Wales opened the first bridge linking England directly with his principality. It will shave three miles and much frustration from a journey from London to Cardiff. **Page 12**

Doctors back reforms

Doctors sympathetic to the Conservative Party have set up a covert campaign to promote the Government's health reforms in the run-up to the general election. **Page 13**

Netanyahu warned

Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister-elect, was told that Israeli hopes for lasting peace with the Arabs would fail if he trampled on Palestinian aspirations for statehood. **Page 14**

Whitewater offensive

Republicans attacked the Clinton White House as their Senate Whitewater committee members accused Democratic colleagues of a cover-up. **Pages 15, 20**

Gorbachev campaign

Despite his low poll ratings, Mikhail Gorbachev is enjoying the Russian presidential campaign. He appears on television and addresses full halls. **Page 16**

Genocide and sport

A row about the Holocaust has broken out in France after the Olympic synchronised swimming team chose Nazi genocide as its theme for Atlanta. **Page 17**



A photocall at the Bonn Foreign Ministry before talks which led to the lifting of the ban on British beef by-products yesterday. From left, Douglas Hogg, Malcolm Rifkind and Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister. **Pages 1, 21**

BUSINESS

Yorkshire Water: The company came under fire after announcing record profits. However, it has promised to guarantee water supplies to all customers this year and to cut domestic bills. **Page 25**

British Energy: Advisers to the £1.5 billion-plus flotation have been forced to rewrite the pathfinder prospectus just days before its publication. **Page 25**

Lucas: BBA, the engineering company, looks set to launch a takeover bid worth up to £2.65 billion for Lucas Industries. **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 1.8 points to close at 3753.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 86.5 to 86.4 after a fall from \$1.5497 to \$1.5487 and from DM2.3737 to DM2.3683. **Page 28**

SPORT

Cricket: England open the Test match summer against India at Edgbaston on a pitch expected to favour batsmen more than the one on which West Indies won swiftly last year. **Page 48**

Racing: Dr Massini, favourite for the Vodafone Derby, looks certain to miss the race after succumbing to a poisoned foot. **Page 48**

Football: Les Ferdinand, the Newcastle United striker, and Gary Neville, the Manchester United defender, did not train with England for a second successive day because of injuries. **Page 48**

Tennis: Michael Stich, of Germany, defeated the local favourite, Cedric Pioline, in four sets to reach the semi-finals of the French Open in Paris. **Page 44**

ARTS

Films of the week: Even Robert Redford and Michelle Pfeiffer can't save *Up Close & Personal* from being a boring Hollywood weeper; but Robert Lepage makes an impressive debut with his brilliant *The Confessional*. **Page 37**

New on video: Rob Reiner's lumbering comedy *The American President* helps the time pass, while Eisenstein's *The Battleship Potemkin* invented a whole new style of movie-making. **Page 38**

Director speaks: Luc Bondy on his staging of *Don Carlos* for Covent Garden's Verdi Festival. **Page 39**

Austen adaptation: The ubiquitous Jane Austen arrives in Chichester with a breezy staging of *Mansfield Park* that stars Tony Britton and Lisa Goddard. **Page 39**

FEATURES

Own goal: For years he could do no wrong. Now Terry Venables is showing signs of paranoia in his defence of England. **Page 19**

Another world: After a life of being chauffeur-driven, a retired chairman now delights in travelling by public transport. **Page 19**

Body and mind: Hear me out: A deaf girl's mother explains why deaf people must be given the chance to hear. **Page 18**

Dr Thomas Stutford on ovarian cancer, HRT and breast cancer, and the pointless brutality of an aircraft's passengers. **Page 18**

Row over Burma: Should holiday-makers visit Burma or boycott it because of the government's human rights abuses? **Page 35**

Books: Michèle Roberts on gentle Anita Brookner; John Gribben on Einstein's science; Martin Gilbert on Elie Wiesel. **Pages 40, 41**

The papers: The image of the wreckage of Ariane... illustrates failure for the European aerospace industry. But if Europe wants to continue to be an industrialised continent, gambles such as the Ariane project are essential, however risky they might seem to be. **El Mundo**

UK and Europe: Sudan; relief sport; democracy and religion of Lords; witness support. **Page 1**

TOMORROW

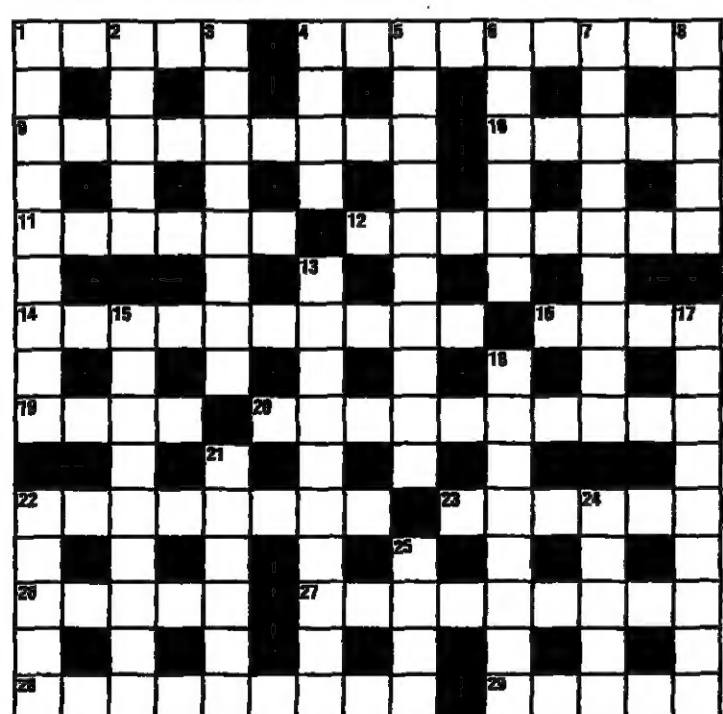
IN THE TIMES

■ **NOVEL FIRST**
The intensely private Eleanor Bron (left) talks to Valerie Grove on the eve of her first novel's publication

■ **EDUCATION**
Have mixed colleges held back Oxford's women students?

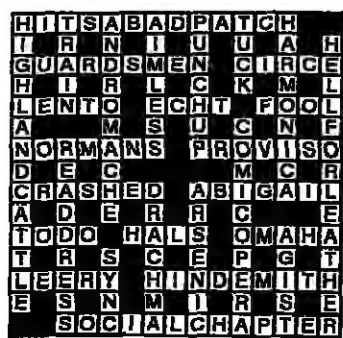


THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,187



- ACROSS**
- Keep to right, following directions (5).
 - Good hand from packed theatre (4).
 - Conservative member, disheartened to withdraw (5,4).
 - Cricketer caught before he's half set (5).
 - Mount puzzling pictures after opening of exhibition (6).
 - It's important to Irish, moving about (8).
 - In depression, was extravagant with curses (4,6).
 - Clip nails back (4).
 - Nanny subject to attack (4).
 - Foreign head, one of the Greens (6,4).
 - Twelve thousand I had, almost exactly (8).
 - Dirty backing of rich crimson cloaks (6).
 - Brief bit of film about queen (5).
- DOWN**
- Standing out roughly three foot (2,3,4).
 - Cockney's abrasive bird (9).
 - Shiny vessel's taken back (5).
 - Heading out of Canberra, take grub, possibly, in this (6-3).
 - Refrain from using gesture when speaking (5).
 - Backfires and limits engineers imposed thereon (8).
 - Swindle of rising fare (4).
 - Extended one's property in New York area (4,6).
 - Takes part in creating clothes (6).
 - Neuter cat, altering voice (9).
 - What originates enduring tenets honoured in community? (5).
 - Where Old Contemptibles went too far (4,3,3).
 - At university, acid upset blue throughout (2,3,4).
 - False arrest followed by summons (9).
 - Bubbly winners receiving sovereign (8).
 - Request to turn in due that's excellent (6).
 - Painting Grandma Miriam's brother (5).
 - Flower providing the ultimate in nectar, leading to lots of honey (5).
 - Can get up (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,186



Times Two Crossword, page 48

THE TIMES WEATHERWATCH

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 550 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
East of London	702
West of London	703
South East	704
South West	705
West Midlands	706
East Midlands	707
North East	708
North West	709
Yorkshire	710
East of England	711
West of England	712
South East	713
South West	714
West Midlands	715
East Midlands	716
North East	717
North West	718
Yorkshire	719
East of England	720
West of England	721
South East	722
South West	723
West Midlands	724
East Midlands	725
North East	726
North West	727
Yorkshire	728

Weatherwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

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For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Area within M25	732
East of London	733
West of London	734
South East	735
South West	736
West Midlands	737
East Midlands	738
North East	739
North West	740
Yorkshire	741
East of England	742
West of England	743
South East	744
South West	745
West Midlands	746
East Midlands	747
North East	748
North West	749
Yorkshire	750

AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Gosport, Kent, 28°C (82°F); lowest day temp: Exeter, Devon, 12°C (54°F). Highest night temp: London, 15°C (59°F).

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FORECAST

■ Much of England and Wales will be hot with spells of hazy sunshine. There may be fog patches on some coasts in southwestern areas, and showers will develop over northern parts, some becoming heavy by evening. Coastal sea breezes are likely for a time.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mostly dry with sunny spells, though a few showers are likely in the north at first. Cloud will increase in the west later. Warm in eastern Scotland; temperatures nearer normal elsewhere. Winds fairly light.

■ London, SE, Cent S, E, Cent N England, E Anglia, Midlands, Channel Is: Dry, hazy sunshine. Wind S or SE light, but local sea breezes. Hot inland. Max 24C to 27C (75F to 81F).

■ SW England, S Wales: Fog patches on coasts, sunshine inland. Wind mostly light and variable, some sea breezes. Max 22C to 25C (72F to 77F), cooler on coasts.

■ N Wales, NW, NE England, Lakes, Isle of Man, SW Scotland: Rather cloudy at times, showers developing, some heavy later. Wind S or SE light. Max 22C to 24C (70F to 75F).

■ Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: Dry, good sunny spells. Wind mainly SE light. Warm. Max 18C to 21C (64F to 70F).

■ Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: Dry, sunny spells. Cloudier later. Wind S light becoming SE moderate. Max 17C to 19C (63F to 66F).

■ Orkney, Shetland: Sunny spells after some early showers. Wind SW or S light. Max 14C to 16C (57F to 61F).

■ Outlook: Showers spreading east and south, thundery in places. Dry, fresher weather following.

■ Pollen forecast: low in Scotland, N England, N Ireland, central London; low to moderate in Wales; moderate in the South West; moderate to high in the Midlands; high in East Anglia and the South East.

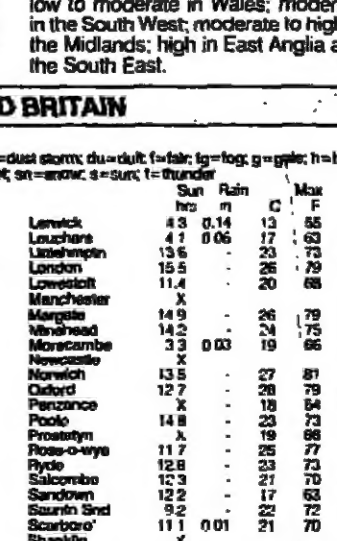
AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b = bright; c = cloudy; d = drizzle; ds = dust storm; du = dust; f = fog; g = gale; h = hail.

Area	Sun	Rain	Max	Min
London	4.8	0.1	17	10
Edinburgh	4.8	0.1	15	9
Glasgow	4.8	0.1	15	9
Belfast	4.8	0.1	15	9
Birmingham	4.8	0.1	15	9
Bristol	4.8	0.1	15	9
Cardiff	4.8	0.1	15	9
Exeter	4.8	0.1	15	9
Gloucester	4.8	0.1	15	9
Leeds	4.8	0.1	15	9
Liverpool	4.8	0.1	15	9
Manchester	4.8	0.1	15	9
Newcastle	4.8	0.1	15	9
Nottingham	4.8	0.1	15	9
Sheffield	4.8	0.1	15	9
Southampton	4.8	0.1	15	9
Stoke	4.8	0.1	15	9
Sunderland	4.8	0.1	15	9
Torquay	4.8	0.1	15	9
Weymouth	4.8	0.1	15	9
Wolverhampton	4.8	0.1	15	9

MOON TODAY

Changes to chart below from noon: low P will continue to push N towards Iceland, deepening temporarily before slowly filling; high A is expected to remain dominant across much of Europe with little change in central pressure.



HIGH TIDES

TODAY

Location	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4:57	7.2	5:13	6.8
Aberdeen	4:19	4.1	5:05	4.0
Abermouth	10:22	13.0	10:43	12.9
Belfast	1:57	3.8	2:39	3.4
Cardiff	10:07	11.3	10:30	11.2
Dover	9:04	5.2	9:19	5.3
Dunfermline	1:48	6.9	2:15	6.6
Falmouth	8:09	4.8	8:34	5.0
Glasgow	3:16	3.5	3:56	3.2
Greenwich	2:44	1.1	3:04	1.3
Hull	1:05	5.6	1:41	5.2
Hull (Albert D)	9:14	7.4	9:39	7.1
Manchester	9:08	9.0	9:33	8.0
King's Lynn	9:09	7.0	9:37	6.5

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 4:45 am
Sun sets: 9:14 pm

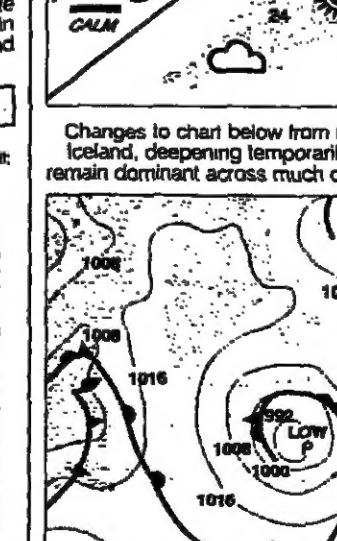
Moon rises: 10:21 am
Moon sets: 12:04 am

London 9:14 pm to 4:45 am
Bristol 9:23 pm to 4:55 am
Edinburgh 9:33 pm to 4:39 am
Manchester 9:33 pm to 4:42 am
Penzance 9:28 pm to 5:14 am

Last quarter June 8

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London 9:14 pm to 4:45 am
Bristol 9:23 pm to 4:55 am
Edinburgh 9:33 pm to 4:39 am
Manchester 9:33 pm to 4:42 am
Penzance 9:28 pm to 5:14 am

Last quarter June 8

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